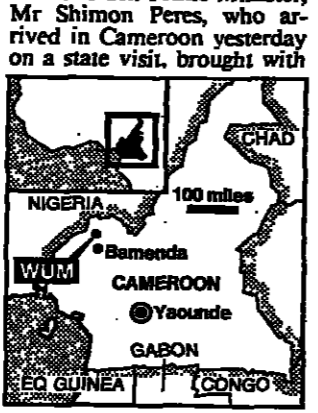


Volcanic gas kills 1,200 in Cameroon

By Robin Young

At least 1,200 people have been killed by a cloud of toxic gas rising from a volcanic lake in north-west Cameroon...

Workers and firemen stationed in Cameroon who had already joined relief efforts...



him a 16-man medical team with respiratory equipment, medicine and oxygen tanks to treat gas victims...

It is literally like being knocked out if there is no-one to pull you out in time...

Britain and America pledged logistical support for the evacuation of villagers...

Peres brings aid, page 5



Anatoly Shcharansky, the former Soviet dissident, centre, reunited with his mother and other members of his family when they arrived in Vienna yesterday...

Russians display nuclear 'volcano'

From Pearce Wright Vienna

Earlier descriptions of the disaster at the Chernobyl atomic power station paled into insignificance yesterday...

He began by widening the issue of nuclear safety far beyond those methods associated with the Chernobyl disaster...

He invited 'criticism and constructive ideas' to get out of the mess the Russians were in.

He said: 'The Chernobyl accident was a disaster for our citizens. It was a material and moral loss that is still distorting the current economic and scientific activity of many of our organizations.'

But he then stressed that not only the Soviet Union, but the rest of the world, was dependent upon an expansion of nuclear energy...

He said: 'Without nuclear energy we cannot master the next stage in our economic and technological development.'

Professor Legasov said: 'The world of nuclear energy brings many dangers of an international character...

He said the Russians had weighed up the potential risk and the potential long-term effects on health of an escape of radioactivity...

He maintained that the reasons were 'absolutely compelling'.

In investigating the Chernobyl accident, his team

Continued on page 14, col 1

Continued on page 5, col 2

Arab world worried by exercises

From Robert Fisk Bahrain

US-Egyptian naval manoeuvres in the Mediterranean and a fiercely worded report in the Wall Street Journal...

President Assad of Syria yesterday flew unannounced to Libya to confer with the colonel and to promise - if Libya's official news agency is to be believed - to fight alongside him if his regime is again attacked by the US.

The five days of US-Egyptian air and sea exercises, some of them off the Libyan coast, have already been condemned as 'openly provocative' by Pravda...

It was probably not by chance that Mr Vladimir Petrovsky, the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, turned up in Cairo for talks with Egyptian

The United States believes Colonel Gaddafi is plotting new terrorist attacks and has completed plans for a second and heavier air strike on Libya...

officials as the first Egyptian naval vessels put to sea.

The Syrians certainly seem to have taken the manoeuvres seriously. President Assad, speaking in Benghazi, suggested that his country would itself take offensive action against the Americans if they again attacked Libya...

'Syria and Libya are in the same trench in the struggle against the hostile imperialist plots which are directed not only against Libya but against the entire Arab nation,' President Assad was quoted as saying.

'In case of a new (US) attack on Libya, Syria will shoulder its full responsibility and fight it as if it were directed against Syria itself.'

Birmingham race abandoned Rain and gales wash out August Bank holiday

● Birmingham's first attempt at holding a motor-racing 'Super Prix' had to be abandoned during torrential rain.

● Atrocious weather kept the crowds down to 200,000 for both days of the Notting Hill Carnival in west London

● Rain and gales struck round Britain and in many places it may have been the wettest August holiday for 20 years.

By Staff Reporters

Britain's first attempt to stage motor racing on public roads was washed out yesterday. The race, in Birmingham, was abandoned at the half-way point in torrential rain that brought high-speed crashes and anger from drivers.

Birmingham City Council expects a £400,000 loss on its £1.5 million investment in the 'super prix', but officials said that despite the appalling Bank holiday weather, it would stage the event again next year.

The two-day event on a 2.5-mile 'round-the-houses' circuit near the city centre was acknowledged to have been well organized and the circuit was rated first class by many drivers.

But the organizers were defeated by the heavy, prolonged rain that drove spectators away. The organizers said that 70,000 spectators watched yesterday's racing, although the police put the figure at 20,000.

The main event, a round of the Formula 3,000 Championship, was abandoned half way through, after 25 laps, when two cars partly blocked the high-speed circuit.

The driver of one of them, Andrew Gilbert-Scott, aged 27, from Gloucester, complained that it had been irresponsible to allow the race to carry on as long as it did in the heavy rain and spray from the cars that sharply reduced visibility.

He said: 'I could not see the flags or the lights of the cars in front. I have raced in a lot of bad conditions, but these were the worst.'

In an earlier Thundersports practice race before the rain started Robin Smith, aged 40, was taken to hospital after his Cosworth car hit the crash barriers at over 100mph and burst into flames. He was treated for minor burns then went home. No drivers were seriously hurt.

Mr John Charlton, chairman of Birmingham City Council's Road Race Committee, refused to be downhearted.

He said: 'I am amazed we have been able to pull it off when everybody said that we could not. We have produced one of the best road race circuits in the world and we are guaranteed to hold it until 1990.'

'We do not do things by halves in Birmingham. We have bid for the Olympics in 1992 and we can bid for the grand prix. We want to make Birmingham the sporting capital of Britain.'

Tomorrow Over the limit



Are Britain's drink-driving laws having the desired effect? On the nightshift with the breath-test police

Portfolio Gold

● The Times Portfolio Gold daily competition prize is worth £12,000 today, treble the usual amount because there were no winners last Friday or Saturday. There was no competition yesterday because of the Bank holiday.

Caning cases

Stopp, the anti-canning group, is investigating four complaints about beatings in independent schools and may submit them to the European Commission of Human Rights

Tests awards

Aborigines with links to the Maralinga area, where Britain held nuclear tests in the 1950s and 1960s, are to receive initial compensation of \$450,000 (£200,000) from Canberra

On This Day

The first Channel swimmer, Capt Matthew Webb, completed his gruelling attempt in 21hr 45min in 1875 Page 11

Leeds results

A full list of degrees awarded by Leeds University is published today Page 24

Table with 3 columns: Home News, Overseas, and Features, listing various news items and their page numbers.

Labour considers council shake-up

By Nicholas Wood, Political Reporter

The Labour Party is considering a shake-up of local government under which about a dozen regional councils would take over many of the powers now exercised at county and district level.

That became clear yesterday in advance of the launch on Wednesday of the party's new 'green' environment strategy, which refers to such a democratically elected tier of administration responsible for matters such as water, strategic planning, employment and waste disposal.

But at the same time, party sources said that no decisions have been taken and work needs to be done through the autumn before the idea could become a manifesto commitment.

They also dismissed the suggestion that the proposal aimed to extend Labour's power into the countryside as revenge on the Conservatives for abolishing the six

metropolitan counties and the Greater London Council.

Demographic factors would ensure that if the extra councils were set up, many would fall to Labour's political rivals. Far from strengthening the hand of militant town-hall leaders, such as Mr Bernie Grant of Haringey, they would actually reduce it, they added.

Mr Jack Straw, Labour's local government spokesman, is a supporter of the proposal but he has so far failed to persuade the party's joint policy committee on the subject or the national executive committee to take it up.

Yesterday, Mr David Blunkett, leader of Sheffield City Council and chairman of the local government committee, said that the super councils would be set up but that the question was whether that should be coupled with sweeping away existing regional bodies such as those covering health and water.

Speaking on World at One on BBC Radio 4, he said: 'We want to try to streamline local government at the same time as looking at sensible democratic regional structures.'

He denied that such bodies would be Labour-dominated: 'I don't think we would ever dream of trying to gerrymander a situation. We could not do it in the South-west or parts of the South-east. Obviously, there will be major Tory domination and that is something we would have to take account of.'

Mr Jack Straw: Failed to persuade committees.

Biggest-ever rise in Tokyo shares

By David Smith Economics Correspondent

Tokyo's rise was the biggest one-day gain on record - the Nikkei Dow Jones index rose by 432.78 points to 18,565.61.

Washington is pressing Germany and Japan to reduce interest rates to stimulate the world economy. Germany's central bank meets on Thursday to consider interest rate policy; Japan would almost certainly follow a cut in German rates.

Record Tokyo rise, page 15

Fleming in plea to US judge

Lawyers representing John Robert Fleming asked a judge in Miami yesterday to block his deportation to Britain, where he is wanted for questioning in connection with a £26 million gold and diamonds theft.

Fleming, 45, has been held at Miami airport since last Wednesday after being expelled from Costa Rica.

Police want to see him in connection with the Brinks-Mat warehouse raid near Heathrow Airport in 1983.

Fleming fled to Costa Rica from Spain on July 22, only days before Spanish authorities were due to expel him.

At yesterday's hearing, lawyers asked Judge Keith Williams to withdraw Fleming's application for entry to the United States and allow him to name a country he wishes to travel to.

The judge said he may rule on the case next Wednesday.

Police fire on crowd in Soweto

From Michael Hornsby Johannesburg

South African police killed one black man and injured eight others when they opened fire on a crowd of 500 people outside at a Soweto school yesterday.

The government's Bureau for Information said that the police fired birdshot and tear gas when their vehicle was stoned as they drove past the Nguqunyanzi Secondary School.

A witness claimed the shots were fired by police in plainclothes. The dead man was identified as Mr Maxin Gaga, aged 28.

Soweto schools have been tense for two weeks, with most secondary schools and some primary schools being boycotted on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays in protest at the presence of armed soldiers.

When the school term began in mid-July, the authorities introduced controls which involved screening all returning pupils to weed out 'agitators.' Those who passed were given identity cards, but about 300,000 pupils, who were either refused cards or failed to apply, were barred.

Mr Ron Miller, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, said yesterday that South Africa would raise the issue of the presence of African National Congress (ANC) members in Mozambique at the next round of talks between the two countries.

His comment came amid reports that the ANC is once again making free use of Mozambique for guerrilla attacks on South Africa, and that Pretoria is channelling substantial military aid to the Renamo insurgents in Mozambique.

Test batting record equalled Botham hits 24 off one over

By John Goodbody, Sports News Correspondent

Ian Botham equalled the Test record for the most number of runs scored in one over when he hit 24 off the bowling of Derek Stirling for England against New Zealand at the Oval yesterday.

Botham, whose recall for the Third Test has already seen him pass the world record for the number of Test wickets, had made 59 not out when steady rain ended play for the day after only 65 minutes. England were 101 runs ahead of New Zealand's first innings total of 287, with five wickets still standing.

Somerset are confident that Botham will still be playing for their next season in spite of his threat to leave the county because the West Indian players, Viv Richards and Joel Garner, have not been offered new contracts.

The England all-rounder will meet Mr Brian Langford, Sport, pages 25-28 and 30

Advertisement for UK Finance Ltd. featuring 'NOTHING TO REPAY FOR UP TO 6 MONTHS ONLY WITH A UK SECURED LOAN' and 'Pay off all your bills NOW!'. Includes details on interest rates and repayment options.

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The cost of working the land

Bank is sued by a farmer who was lent too much

By David Sapsted

Mr Alan Powell, who farms 180 acres in Shropshire, is suing Lloyds Bank for lending him too much money. He made the decision after the bank, which has lent him a total of £450,000, foreclosed on him and put in a receiver.

Other farmers are facing similar difficulties and the case promises to become something of a cause célèbre.

Mr Powell's story began four years ago when he bought his farm for £375,000, which he thought was a bargain price.

The price was about £500 an acre cheaper than comparable

property near by and reflected the fact that the farm needed more than its share of work to return it to peak condition.

Mr Powell came from a long line of farmers - his father, his grandfather, and generations before that made their livings from the land - and the work got done, but it cost money. Improvements and machinery took his bank borrowing to £450,000.

Then came the crash: the price of farmland started to fall.

According to the Country Landowners' Association (CLA), it lost almost 40 per

cent of its value between the high point in 1984 and July this year. And there is no sign of the trend reversing.

The association said: "The fundamental cause is the lack of action by the Government and the EEC over future grain policies. We know the European cereals surplus will have to be controlled."

"A lot of farmers borrowed very heavily from the banks at a time when land prices were relatively high as their land represented substantial collateral. As land values fell, the banks are starting to look at these loans and we know of cases where they are foreclosing."

Mr Powell certainly does. In February this year, Lloyds made the foreclosure decision. Mr Powell, sitting tight in his farmhouse at Press Heath, near Whitchurch, with his wife, two children and step-daughter, is being paid a caretaker's wage to manage the farm he had hoped, one day, to pass on to his son.

It is a hope he has not yet relinquished. He says of his action against the bank: "I don't want to go to law. I just want to farm."

"I have been forced into this crazy situation. Four years ago the bank must have thought my farm was a good investment; they never put a limit on my borrowing."

"Then land prices started to fall and the big institutions no longer regarded it as a good place to have their money."

"I believe they must bear responsibility for their actions and that is why I'm going to fight all the way."

Mr Powell, aged 36, is not alone in his fight. Similar cases are pending in Wales and Scotland, and the CLA and the National Farmers' Union could soon come out fighting on behalf of the embattled farmers.

In the United States, at least one farmer has successfully sued the Bank of America for negligence over a similar issue.

While Mr Powell awaits confirmation of a legal aid certificate he remains unwilling to discuss details of his claim against the bank.

"Generally, though", he said, "I think the banks have a lot to answer for... not the local managers but the people in London or the regional centres who have seen that land values are falling and have pushed the panic button."

"You can't do that with farming. We work on five or six-year cycles. We are being made victims simply because they can't get things right in Brussels."

Mr Powell admits that it is frustrating and disheartening to be no more than a caretaker on land on which he was building his future. All 180 acres are arable and harvesting is under way, though what will be the fate of the crop, he does not know.

Just a year ago, he was farming almost 900 acres: the 180 he bought in 1982, 40 more that the family has owned for years, and the rest on short-term tenancies. Today, he has reduced that to 360 acres, 140 of it rented.

He reckons that Shropshire farmland prices have dropped more quickly than the national average, to about £1,200 an acre - and that's if you can find a buyer."

With hindsight, the figure of just more than £2,000 an acre he paid for Wood Farm four years ago does not look such a bargain after all.



Mr Alan Powell on his farm at Press Heath, in Shropshire, with his wife Jean and their children, Sharon, aged 16, and Shann, aged 13 (Photograph: John Manning).



Miss Sally Peters cradling Jomar the chimpanzee, after being crowned Smile Princess at Regent's Park Zoo, yesterday. Miss Peters, aged 20, from Ashford in Kent, launched "Smile For Safety Week" for the British Safety Council (Photograph: Ros Drinkwater).

Stoke up on water, athletes are told

A pre-race glass of water could mean the difference between a gold medal and being an also ran. Britain's athletes at the European Championships in Stuttgart, West Germany, are told today.

When it comes to the Coe-Cram confrontation it could be the one who last had a drink who has the edge, particularly if it is hot, Mr Peter Berry Ottoway, a sports nutritionist, says.

Mr Ottoway, who earlier this year told athletes to forget their training steeles and concentrate on pasta and beans for energy, gives the advice in introducing the report of a national symposium on nutrition in sport, which is sponsored by the Central Council of Physical Recreation and Shaklee (UK).

Water, he says, is the most important of all nutrients and lack of it causes dehydration.

"Most of our food produces heat, not energy, and we sweat to lose it. If a marathon runner did not sweat he would just about come to the boil by the end of his 26 miles. He loses almost half a pint of water a mile in sweat, no matter how fast or slow he is."

Few athletes realize how vital it is and take precautions, he says. A marathon runner can lose more than a gallon but it takes far less, a pint or so, to upset performance.

"American research has shown dehydration can cut a mile's speed by 3 per cent, 5 seconds in a 1500-metre race, and by 6 or 7 per cent in the 5,000 and 10,000 metres a handicap of half a minute or more," Mr Ottoway says.

Dehydration could explain some deaths during jogging, he says. It leads to the blood becoming thicker.

Nutrition in Sport, (available from the Central Council of Physical Recreation, Francis House, Francis Street, London SW1, £5.25).

Crown guide to Scottish holidays

Scotland is to introduce classified guides to tourist services from next year, listing about 1,800 different kinds of accommodation, from camping sites to guest houses and leading hotels.

A crown will be used as a symbol to denote the facilities available, with five crowns being the top award.

Mr Eddie Holmes, the Scotland Tourist Board's public relations officer, said that establishments awarded five crowns would offer facilities such as en suite bathrooms, lifts and easy access for the disabled.

Food classifications will be based on quality, ambience and service and, instead of crowns, will carry one of three grades: approved, commended or highly commended.

The guides, *Hotels and Guest Houses, Bed and Breakfast, Self-Catering and Camping and Caravanning*, will be available from the board and tourist bookshops. Listings are voluntary.

Land price down by a third

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

The price of farmland in England has fallen by nearly a third in the past two years, from an average of £4,935 a hectare (about £2,000 an acre) in June 1984 to £3,315 a hectare (about £1,345 an acre) in the corresponding month this year, according to the latest Ministry of Agriculture figures.

The drop was by no means unexpected; the surprise is that the boom in prices which followed Britain's entry into the EEC in 1973 persisted for as long as it did.

It was unrealistic to expect farmers to be able to service loans of £2,000 an acre or more on a net income unlikely to exceed £150 an acre, even on top-grade arable land.

The artificially high prices which prevailed in the late 1970s and early 1980s were stimulated not only by the banks' willingness to lend money freely on the apparent assumption that the land would continue to hold its value as collateral, but also by the eagerness of financial institutions, including merchant banks, pension funds and insurance companies to acquire what they saw as a cast-iron investment.

Now that a degree of sanity appears to have returned to the market, the institutions are said to be equally anxious to dispose of their holdings but are naturally unwilling to accept the losses involved.

Their embarrassment at the

decline in the book value of their assets has been compounded by the fact that most of their land is tenanted and there is little prospect of any big increase in farm rents.

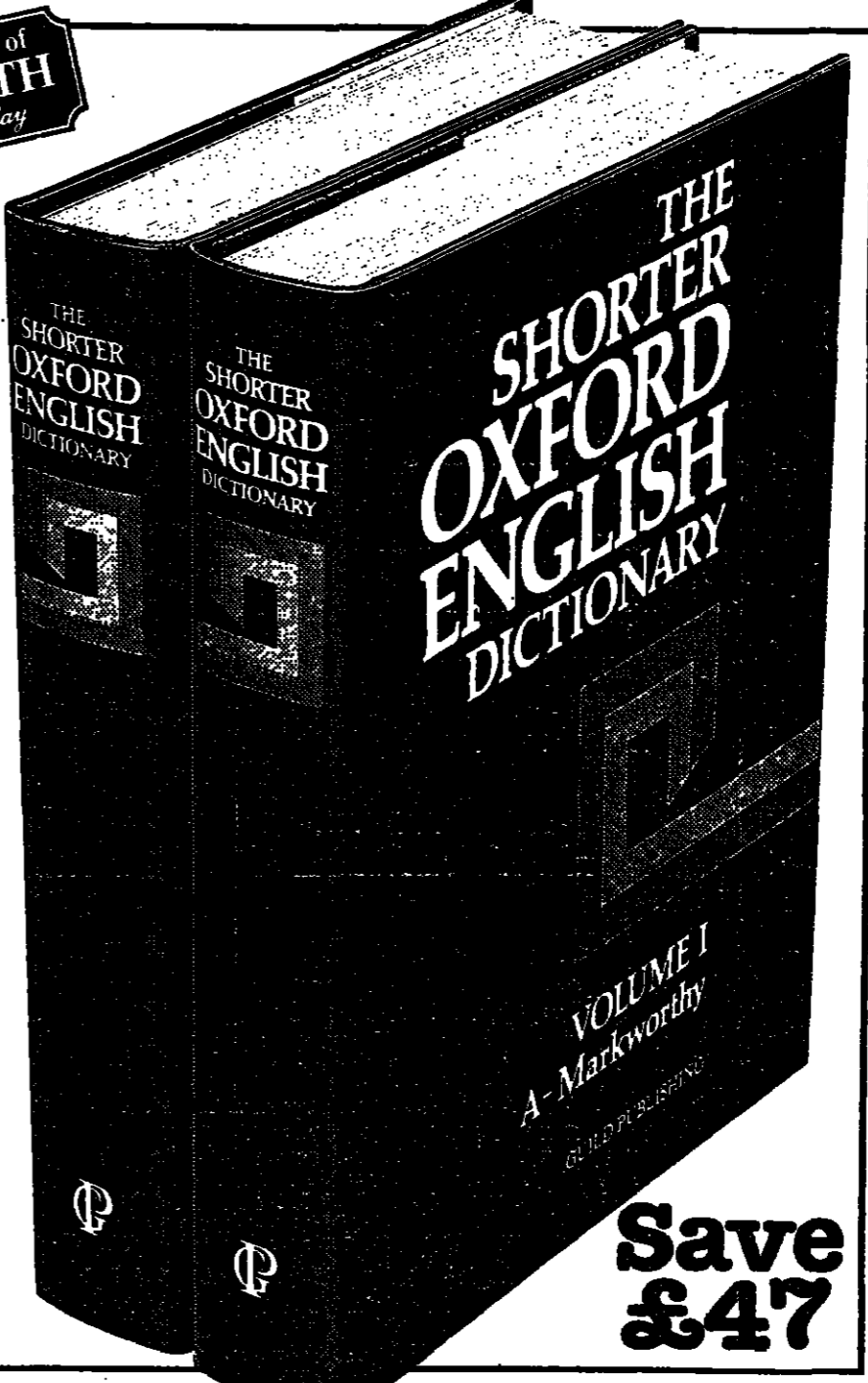
For their part farmers are tightening their belts in the expectation of falling grain prices as a result of world surpluses.

Farmers' organizations are in two minds about what is happening. On the one hand, they are inclined to welcome the fall in land prices as a more realistic reflection of farm incomes. But, on the other hand, they are worried about the increasing number of bankruptcies among those who bought land at the height of the boom.

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Shortage of arthritis specialists

By Thomson Prance

Millions of arthritis and rheumatism victims are being denied the services of specialists who could ease their suffering, a report says today.

Thirty health districts in Britain have no specialist rheumatologist, the report from the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council says.

Professor Philip Wood, of the council's epidemiology research unit, which prepared the report, said yesterday: "Seven and a half million people are without the services of a specialist in what is Britain's most widespread disease. Consultant help is essential because it brings relief to the suffering of these people."

There should be one consultant per 150,000 of the population, he said. In England, the actual rate was one for every 177,547; in Wales, one for every 234,166; in Scotland, one for every 367,857 - "an extremely serious position" - and in Northern Ireland there was only one consultant for every 524,233 of the population.

"The real trouble is resources, and for that the buck stops with government," Professor Wood said.

The report is published to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council.

Pregnant plea for fashions

Pregnant women are tired of being typecast and having their special fashion requirements ignored by most manufacturers and retailers, according to a report published today.

Expectant mothers throughout Britain described maternity fashions as "frumpy and unflattering as 'ugly and uncomfortable'", the report by the market research company Campbell Keegan says.

Miss Sheila Keegan, who wrote the report, which is based on interviews with 100 pregnant women, said yesterday: "Women have changed but manufacturers are still approaching them as they did the previous generation. They don't all want to dress in pretty pastels, wear bras built like Sherman tanks, or be coaxed by advertisers. They are looking for a bit more understanding."

The Mothercare chain, which has 230 stores, said yesterday the report's findings were unfair. "Our range is certainly not frumpy. Maternity fashions, including underwear, are much more fashionable compared to 10 to 15 years ago," a spokeswoman said.

Pregnancy Today, published by Campbell Keegan Limited, Waltham House, Waltham Grove, London SW6 1QP.

2 beaten for drug refusal

Two students in Sheffield were recovering last night after drug pedlars attacked them when they refused to buy cannabis.

Mr Paul Burke, aged 20, and Mr Lawrence Hegarty, aged 19, both of Filey Street, Sheffield, were approached by two youths as they returned home from a nightclub early on Sunday morning.

When they refused to buy cannabis they were punched, kicked and battered with a brick. Mr Hegarty's nose was broken and his face and head cut.

Both men were treated at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital in Sheffield.

"There was no motive for the attack other than their refusal to buy drugs," the police said. They were alarmed by the assault, which may indicate a new readiness by drug dealers to use violence and intimidation.

It is the second reported incident of people being attacked after refusing to buy drugs.

Three weeks ago in the same area a Miss Clare Blackburn, aged 25, was injured when a blank-firing gun was discharged against her stomach after she and her boyfriend refused to buy drugs from a gang of eight youths.

A youth has been charged in relation to the attack.

Restaurant smokers breathe easy

Most leading restaurants do not ban customers from smoking because complaints from non-smoking diners are rare, according to a poll conducted for the Freedom Organisation for the Right to Enjoy Smoking Tobacco (Forest).

The Forest poll, held to determine public support for demands from anti-smoking groups, concludes that smoking in restaurants in England and Wales is not a great problem.

According to the Harris Poll, of 571 restaurants listed in the 1986 Good Food Guide, restaurant owners rarely receive smoking complaints.

Among restaurants sampled where smoking was allowed,

51 per cent of proprietors said that complaints were rare, 41 per cent said that they received occasional comments and 7 per cent thought complaints from non-smokers were a regular event.

Of the 571 restaurants sampled, 65 per cent did not operate any smoking restrictions, 27 per cent restricted it in parts of the restaurant and 7 per cent had a total ban.

Mr Stephen Eyres, Forest director, said: "Despite the hullabaloo, most restaurant owners do not think smoking is a major problem. But artificial pressure is whipped up by anti-smokers."

He cited a restaurant in Weymouth, Dorset, which

provided a separate room for non-smokers, "but only two customers used the facility in the daytime."

Dr Noel Olsen, honorary secretary of Action on Smoking and Health (ASH), said: "Only 38 per cent of adults smoke. The right of others to enjoy clean air should exceed the right of smokers to pollute it."

The British Medical Association said: "Last year there were about 100,000 deaths associated with smoking. Non-smokers are now in the majority and people should decide for themselves, in the light of these facts, without legislation."

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Decisions on TV violence 'must remain with editors'

By Gavin Bell, Arts Correspondent

Reporters and editors should continue to decide whether to show scenes of horrific violence in television news because it would be wrong to impose statutory guidelines, a panel of broadcasters and an MP says.

The panel at the Edinburgh International Television Festival reached its conclusion yesterday after watching how British and American networks edited 10 minutes of newsfilm of the disaster at the Heysel football stadium in Brussels last year.

Mr Graham Bright, Conservative MP for Luton South, was also invited to edit a two-minute film of the catastrophe. It emerged as the most restrained because he cut two scenes of dying fans which he felt went "a little too far".

He added, however: "I am even more adamant now that you cannot legislate in what is essentially a question of taste and judgement."

"This was a traumatic experience for me. Editors working under pressure obviously have to take decisions by the seat of their pants. You simply cannot have barristers hovering around them in such situations."

Mr Jon Snow, of ITN, said he had been disturbed by the Heysel film, but that there was nothing in the original rushes that he would not have shown.

"There was a desperate disaster that had to be reported and you've just got to use your expertise and professionalism to tell the story. If you deny viewers the opportunity to judge for themselves what's going on you begin to sanitize the real world."

He added, however, that he had seen some "unbelievably nasty" scenes in El Salvador that he felt he could not transmit. "There is a set of basic responses to such things."

Mr Paul Friedman, a director of ABC News, of the United States, agreed that, given the circumstances of the Heysel disaster, he had no objection to screening any of the scenes.

He said he was more concerned about the antiseptic view of violence portrayed in entertainment programmes, in which murder was made more acceptable by reducing it to the image of a bloodstain on a designer shirt.

The most cautious broadcasting view came from Mr Chris Kramer, a BBC news editor, who considered certain Heysel sequences to be unnecessary.

"It is a fact of life that a public broadcasting service must accept that some images they beam into homes may be deeply disturbing to the frail, the frightened and the four-year-olds."

The freeport experiment Advance hampered by Treasury's tax rules

Southampton's freeport is one of the most successful in Britain but it is little more than an international warehouse, not the tax and duty-free haven for job-creating manufacturers envisaged by its creators.

A new sign on the approach road to the zone proclaims: "You are now leaving the customs territory of the European Community - welcome to Southampton Free Trade Zone." It is displayed in warehouses and former shipping line offices by the River Test.

But in spite of optimistic marketing and competitive rates, Southampton loses trade to its European rivals, particularly Hamburg and Rotterdam, because tax and duty concessions allowed on the Continent are not available here.

Championed by right-wing academics, the freeport concept gained ground among backbench Conservative MPs and quickly won the support of the Government, which designated six freeports in 1984 in Belfast, Birmingham, Cardiff, Liverpool and Prestwick and Southampton.

The idea of a zone for the import, manufacture and export of goods free from duty, taxes and bureaucracy was seen as a stimulant to industrial growth, but the inducements have proved far from irresistible. Trade has been so slow that Prestwick, Belfast and Cardiff freeports are considering their future.

"If you run a business in the way the Treasury ran freeports you would very quickly not be in business", Mr Andrew Kent, general manager of the Southampton freeport,



Mr Andrew Kent, of Southampton freeport, who is losing business to European competitors.

said. Customs and Excise officials often bore the brunt of criticism about the constraints on freeports for policing the VAT and tax rules laid down by the Treasury, he said.

Individual constraints appear insignificant but when combined with the cautious, if not unwilling approach of Civil Servants to the experiment, the problems loom large.

A case illustrating the problems was that of a prospective customer at Southampton who wanted a consignment of cigarette lighters, going from manufacturers in Japan to the Middle East, to be held at short notice in Europe.

The free zone could meet the request at favourable rates but it had to explain that the lighters would attract excise

duty at 50p each, which could be reclaimed, but often months later. The customer went to Rotterdam freeport and saved his money.

Mr Kent likes to show off the 30 flags from the countries his company has traded with in its first eight months and is confident of growing business as an international trading warehouse handling everything from pineapples from the Philippines to welding rods from Brazil.

He said: "I think that the expectation of Parliament in establishing the freeports was that they were setting up a classic freeport model but in fact that is not what they put into effect. What the Government has actually set up is an international trading regime."

Final finishing and relabelling goods for different countries are potential areas for expansion but Mr Kent does not foresee manufacturers clamouring to work within freeports.

"Competitors in Europe are offering arrangements and allowances under EEC rules which the Treasury refuses to give us. The cost would be absolutely nothing to the Exchequer. I'm not disappointed or annoyed, but speechless," Mr Kent said.

Freeport operators expected Treasury officials to see the logic of their requests but so far there has been no hint of change. VAT regulations apply in freeports as in the rest of Britain, which effectively discourages anyone assem-

bling or processing goods from using British components. Customs and Excise argues that the 15 per cent VAT can be reclaimed but the process is slow and bureaucratic.

Freeports are not free of excise duty and the Government has refused to allow bonded warehouses within Southampton freeport, where goods such as tobacco and alcohol could be kept subject to a promise to pay the duty.

However, the freeports do reap the substantial benefits of freedom from customs duties and quotas as well as import VAT. But these are not equivalent to foreign territory for customs purposes, a point that competitors exploit. A Spanish freeport, the Zona Franca de Cadiz, in a recent advertisement in *The Economist* promised customers exemption from VAT, land excise and import duties.

Southampton was the first freeport to open in Britain. It employs 30 people and in the first 17 weeks it handled goods worth £12 million through its 500,000 square feet of warehousing.

Its shareholders: Trafalgar House, Kleinwort Benson, Associated British Ports and Ocean Cory, seem confident of continuing success.

The zone has acres of vacant warehousing or dock development for expansion. There are no immediate plans to use them as the future of the freeport experiment is carefully monitored. The shape and role of the freeport in the future is uncertain but it is clear the best hopes for growth and jobs rest with the Government at least allowing it to compete on equal terms with European rivals.

Advisers' role for legal insurers

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Legal insurance companies are making moves to provide people with the kind of advice they usually seek from solicitors.

Their action comes after a government scrutiny team's report on legal aid suggested that some advice should no longer be provided by solicitors.

The Legal Protection Group, a market leader in legal expenses insurance, is to write to the Lord Chancellor urging that such companies provide legal advice as well as filling the gap which would be left by any withdrawal of legal aid.

Mr Brian Raincock, managing director of the group, says that a key feature of its policies is a 24-hour legal advice service.

It is provided to anyone for a £10 fee.

"The recent government scrutiny report suggests that citizens' advice bureaux take over much of the advice on civil matters from solicitors. We would also like to be part of this service."

The company has eight solicitors to handle such calls, as well as barristers, accountants and industrial relations experts who will offer round-the-clock advice.

The scrutiny report is being seen by legal expenses insurance companies as an incentive to the private sector's role in providing legal services.

It recommended that much civil legal advice be transferred to the advice agencies and that legal aid no longer be available for such personal matters as conveyancing and wills.

The Legal Protection Group will also provide cover for divorce as part of its family policy. The premium is £80 a year with a total annual cover of £250,000.

Divorce and its related disputes on custody and access to children and over property, is one of the biggest drains on the civil legal aid bill.

Allianz Legal Protection which also boasts a 24-hour advice service for its policy holders, now offers cover for criminal prosecutions.

The legal insurance companies want to discuss with the Law Society the professional practice rules, which restrict solicitors from working with such companies and, at the same time, acting for members of the public.

The companies' 24-hour advice services could be regarded as being in breach of these rules.

"We would ultimately like to employ our own team of solicitors to handle the routine claims", Mr Raincock says.

While the Law Society is prepared to establish its own panels of experts, as it has done in the case of mental health and child care, it is likely to take a dim view of such panels being assembled by outside bodies.

Exam pass rates stay constant

Pass rates for A and O level examinations show little change this year in spite of the year-long teachers' pay dispute which led to thousands of children missing lessons and receiving no homework (Lucy Hodges writes).

Although some Scottish children taking the new Standard grade examination were penalised by the teachers' action and ended up receiving a "no-award" certificate, the indications are that the rest of the United Kingdom remained relatively unaffected.

Most of the GCE examination boards report that there is no significant difference between this year's and last year's pass rates. Indeed, in some cases they are better. The Welsh board's pass rate for A levels has risen to 73.7 per cent from last year's 72.6 per cent. The national average is 70 per cent.

The University of London School Examinations Board has also shown improvement in its A level pass rate, up to 74.7 per cent from last year's 74.5 per cent.

Free newspapers: 2 Battle for share of advertising cake

Free newspapers are enjoying a success unparalleled since the heyday of the national daily tabloids. Mark Ellis, in the second of two articles, looks at the problems success brings and possible developments for the future.

The phenomenal growth of free newspapers is expected to reach its peak within a few years as the total amount of advertisers' money to be divided between the media is stretched to the limit.

In the past decade the regional press has lost a lot of advertising revenue while television and free newspapers have captured increasing shares of the market.

Advertising Association statistics show that between 1975 and 1984 regional dailies lost 6.5 per cent of revenue and paid-for weeklies saw 3.7 per cent of the total share disappear.

There is little doubt that free titles mopped up most of that revenue as advertisers tried and apparently liked the new medium. But better advertising rates through increased competition and loyalty to paid-for papers are likely to stem the flow.

Critics challenge some free newspapers' commitment to the industry. They make big profits, but are said to fail to provide staff training courses recognized by the printing and publishing training boards and neglect local papers' traditional role in providing a community service.

Mr Norman Walker, deputy director of the Newspaper Society, which represents Britain's regional Press, said: "Some free newspapers are very, very good and the society thinks they are here to stay."

"Free newspapers are a dynamic in the market place that cannot be ignored. They have not put members out of business, but they have sharpened up traditional atti-

tudes and some papers have converted to being free."

Mr Walker said his society was disturbed about developments in the property and car advertising market, where competition is cut-throat.

Earlier this year Sheffield's 130-year-old *Morning Telegraph* newspaper closed with the loss of 240 jobs. It had lost revenue from estate agents to a guide offering cut-price advertising.

The free publishing industry is rapidly expanding in magazines where the number of titles has increased from 125 to 304 since 1983. Overall circulation is more than 40 million.

Free magazines claim a market share of advertising revenue outstripping that of the cinema and outdoor advertising.

Titles are launching and disappearing quickly, but growth seems more stable with up-market magazines delivered to selected high income households assessed by market research and with "in-house" publications such as those on aircraft.

Mr Ian Locks, executive director of the Association of Free Newspapers, is confident about the future of the "free" and the industry claims considerable advances in training and commitment.

He said: "We are looking at a shift. People pooh-poohed the idea that you could advertise in something that was range of free newspapers, magazines and leaflets as a new genre of marketing opportunities."

Concluded

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Australia locked in nuclear debate

Aborigines granted tests compensation

From Stephen Taylor, Sydney

Aborigines with links to the Maralinga area, where Britain held nuclear tests in the 1950s and 1960s, are to receive an initial compensation payment of \$Aus500,000 (£200,000) from the Australian Government.

Canberra said the payment was in line with the recommendation of the Royal Commission on British Nuclear Tests in Australia.

The commission, headed by Mr Justice James McClelland, last year found that Australia should bear the cost of compensating Aborigines for the dislocation caused by the

tests, while Britain should pay for the restoration of the Maralinga site to a state fit for unrestricted habitation.

Britain has been asked to contribute \$Aus1 million to the cost of studies on how best to clean up the site, but has not yet responded publicly.

The payment announced by Canberra was said to be for roads, communications and a water supply for around 450 Aborigines, who were among those displaced by the tests but who have since returned to their traditional areas within 80 miles of the

contaminated test site. A government spokesman said the payment was not a once-and-for-all settlement. Further compensation would be considered once the future of the range had been decided in the light of clean-up options.

An interim report by British and Australian scientists who made an initial clean-up study, will be the basis for a government policy statement next month by Senator Gareth Evans, the Energy Minister, who will then take Canberra's position to London for further talks.

Hawke under fire over decision to resume French uranium sales

From Our Correspondent, Sydney

Mr Bob Hawke, the Australian Prime Minister, yesterday began a three-week trip around the country to sell his Government's austerity budget, which aims to slice \$Aus3 billion (about £1.2 billion) from public spending.

The task will be no small feat of the Hawke leadership, in the face of hostility to welfare cuts and the plan to discount wage increases by about half.

So far, however, the most bitter opposition to the budget has come not from the average voter, but from the left wing of Mr Hawke's Australian Labor Party (ALP), which is thoroughly incensed by his plan to resume the sale of uranium to France.

In a climate induced by French nuclear testing in the Pacific, the uranium ban has

been a rallying cry for Labor, comparable to Wellington's ban on nuclear ships, which gave rise to the Anzrus dispute.

The budget announcement that this sanction against France was being abandoned, because it had been ineffective and would save \$Aus66m, provoked a furor within Labor which has still to run its course.

The left intends to challenge Mr Hawke at a meeting of the national executive on September 12, on the grounds that his decision flies in the face of party policy, and both the Liberal opposition and Labor dissidents have started questioning his justification for pursuing sanctions against South Africa.

A number of state party officials are so incensed that they have resigned, as has one

senior Hawke aide. The issue is reported to have started a brawl at a Labor meeting in Queensland at the weekend.

Passion is not confined to the left, however. Mr Bill Hayden, the influential Foreign Minister who leads a centre-left faction, was reportedly so upset by the uranium proposal that he offered to find savings of \$Aus66m in his own department rather than see sales to Paris resume.

But Mr Hawke has overcome the first obstacle. The Labor caucus in Canberra gave its approval by 74 votes to 42 after he reportedly warned that failure to endorse uranium sales along with the remainder of the budget package would bring down the Government. But he is by no means out of trouble yet.



Members of the women's wing of the Pakistan People's Party taking part in a protest rally in Karachi to demand the release of Miss Benazir Bhutto, the party leader, who is being held in a local jail.

Pakistan opposition rebuffs Junejo

From Hasan Akhtar Islamabad

The opposition group in Pakistan's Parliament, at its weekend meeting in Lahore, decided to reject the invitation issued by Mr Muhammad Khan Junejo, the Prime Minister, to the group's members from the Punjab for exclusive talks on the political situation.

Mr Fakhr Imam, the leader of the parliamentary opposition group, said on Sunday that, while the group appreciated the Prime Minister's initiative, it believed that it should be extended to all opposition members.

He said the growing demand by the opposition outside Parliament for mid-term polls was a national issue.

Mr Junejo, who is from Sind province, should invite members from the three other provinces as well, and meet the opposition outside Parliament, Mr Imam said.

He said that the Government was responsible for precipitating the present political agitation in Pakistan, led by the leaders of the Movement for Restoration of Democracy (MRD), including Miss Benazir Bhutto.

Mr Imam demanded the release of Miss Bhutto and all other opposition leaders and workers who were rounded up during the past 10 days and whose number is estimated by the opposition at about 10,000. More than 30 people

were killed in Sind in clashes with security forces.

Mr Imam said the group also demanded the withdrawal of troops from duty with police in Sind and opposed any suggestion of imposing a state of emergency.

Meanwhile, Mr Junejo, who held a long meeting in Lahore with the Punjab members of Parliament, later said that he was not prepared to talk to the opposition outside Parliament.

The Tulf and the Government are considering a plan for provincial councils which would give powers to Tamils where they are in a majority.

Corporal killed: A corporal was killed and eight Sri Lanka Army security men were injured when Tamil guerrillas attacked an Army patrol near Killinochchi in Northern Province yesterday (Vijitha Nava writes). Two officers were injured, and the guerrillas suffered heavy casualties.

Local stories say the RAF plane was en route to the Middle East with 20 cases of gold sovereigns, today worth £700 million, when it was shot down by Luftwaffe fighters.

But the hunt for the gold is tangled in bureaucracy. The Ministry of Merchant Marine last Friday issued an injunction blocking the search until the Greek Supreme Court

decides which government authority has the right to sanction such work.

Mr Eleftheriou, who says he was seven when he watched the plane ditch and sink from a fishing boat 400 yards away, had received a permit from the Naval General Staff and from the Ministry of Agriculture.

Mr Eleftheriou, aged 51, who claims he saw the transport plane go down in the Bay of Oreoi in August 1943, had teamed up with a Greek underwater researcher.

But authorities, acting on orders from the Ministry of Merchant Marine, blocked the research vessel Poseidon when it tried to leave harbour at 8 am yesterday.

Harbour officials on the central Greek island of Euboea yesterday stopped a group of treasure hunters from searching for the wreckage of a Royal Air Force plane that may have been carrying a load of gold sovereigns.

A Greek machinist, Mr

Greek officials stop hunt for RAF 'gold' plane

From A Correspondent Athens

Harbour officials on the central Greek island of Euboea yesterday stopped a group of treasure hunters from searching for the wreckage of a Royal Air Force plane that may have been carrying a load of gold sovereigns.

A Greek machinist, Mr

Sri Lankan peace talks threatened by violence

Colombo (Reuters) - Renewed separatist violence in which 10 people were killed has threatened peace talks between the Sri Lankan Government and moderate Tamils.

A Government spokesman said Tamil guerrillas fired mortar bombs at the main military camp in Jaffna, Northern Province, on Sunday, wounding two soldiers. Troops killed four attackers. Three civilians were killed and 18 were wounded.

The Government said two rebels were killed on Sunday during clashes between rival guerrilla groups at Vavuniya, in the Northern Province.

An opposition leader escaped a bomb attack at a public meeting outside Colombo on Sunday. Police said Mr Vijaya Kumaranunga, secretary of the People's Party, had approached the microphone to address the gathering when a bomb was thrown. It wounded four people but Mr Kumaranunga, who jumped off the stage, was not hurt.

Mr Appapillai Amirthalingam, secretary-general of the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), said he was worried by the continued fighting and hoped to have talks with President Jayewardene today.

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Berlin divided by Catholic conflict

From Roger Boyes, Berlin

An extraordinary row between a radical priest and a conservative cardinal has exposed a glaring East-West anomaly in Berlin.

The root of the present conflict is that the Catholic Church, unlike the Protestants, considers Berlin, East and West, to be one diocese. The Catholic hierarchy, under Cardinal Joachim Meisner, is based in East Berlin but also ministers to the 278,000 Catholics in West Berlin.

This arrangement, which overlooks the Berlin Wall, several minefields, watchtowers and ravenous alsatian dogs, makes it one of the oddest dioceses in Europe and, as in the latest case, can create friction between church leaders and their flock.

Cardinal Meisner regularly travels through the Wall to sit in on services. In recent months he has been shocked by the activities of a West Berlin Jesuit, Father Walter Heinelein, aged 47. The cardinal believes the priest has been flirting too heavily with politics and is too free and easy with church doctrine.

Father Heinelein recently protested against a new British shooting range at Gatow in West Berlin, and last Whitsun he refused to read the bishop's

letter from his pulpit because the subject - the Christian family - was not appropriate for his overwhelmingly elderly and lonely parishioners.

In morning prayers, broadcast by West Berlin radio, which is clearly audible in the eastern half of the city, Father Heinelein told a modern parable. Jesus Christ meets Karl Marx in the no-man's-land between East and West Germany. The former is in trouble with the episcopate, the latter with the central committee. Security men from East and West are listening in ("because both use the same bugs") and hear them say in unison: "Why is my work still at square one?"

The church leadership heard the broadcast and was not amused by the equation of Marx and Christ.

The cardinal has decided to remove the priest from his parish, and there has been an angry response from some of the more active parishioners. Speakers at a stormy protest meeting criticised the cardinal for not understanding "freedom of speech in the West". A petition has been sent to the Pope and appeals have been lodged with the church hierarchy in East Berlin. The cardinal shows no signs of budging.

Malaysian politician faces jail

Singapore (Reuters) - Mr Tan Koon Swan, a prominent Malaysian politician, pleaded guilty yesterday to one of 15 charges related to the collapse of a Singapore company, and faces up to three years in prison when sentenced today.

Mr Tan, a member of the Malaysian Parliament and head of the country's largest Chinese party, pleaded guilty to an amended charge of simple abetment of criminal breach of trust in connection with the collapse of Pan-Electric Industries. The original charge of aggravated abetment was amended at his last appearance in the High Court two weeks ago.

Mr Tan, who had been released then on bail of £1 million Singapore dollars (£13 million), now faces a maximum three years' jail, an unlimited fine or both by pleading guilty to abetting a Pan-Electric director to dishonestly dispose of 145,000 Singapore dollars in company funds last September.

He faces 14 other charges. He pleaded not guilty earlier to nine charges of abetment of

criminal breach of trust, while four counts of cheating and fraud had been set aside pending the outcome of yesterday's hearing.

Mr Tan held a big stake in Pan-Electric, a marine and industrial group which went into receivership in November.

The prosecution said it had agreed with the defence to amend the charge if Mr Tan paid 34 million Singapore dollars to Pan-Electric to replace the firm's cash losses, and if he eased Pan-Electric's share purchase obligations.

Pan-Electric had 72 million Singapore dollars worth of forward contracts with five local broking firms and Mr Tan so far had paid 17 million Singapore dollars to three of the firms.

Echoes probe the Alps

Sargans, Switzerland (Reuters) - Scientists began work yesterday on an ambitious scheme to investigate rocks deep under the Alps using a new sonar technique, a Swiss scientific research body said.

Under the plan, part of a Europe-wide research programme from the North Pole to Tunisia, trucks equipped with special vibration-creating devices will be set up every 20

yards along three lines through Switzerland. The sound waves will hit rocks thousands of yards below the surface and will be reflected back to geological microphones on the surface.

In the few areas where the trucks cannot reach, scientists will set off small explosions. This technique contrasts with the usual method of digging deep bore holes.

Relief firemen rushed in as four killed in Riviera blazes

From Susan MacDonald, Paris

Fires raging through the hills of southern France have killed four people and destroyed 10,000 hectares of forest in the past three days.

Firemen have been stretched to their limit, sometimes working 48 hours without a break, in their efforts to contain the fires in the Alpes-Maritimes, Var and Bouches-du-Rhône regions. Reinforcements have been sent from the north of the country, including Paris, to relieve some of the 5,000 men on duty.

Yesterday, the most dramatic situation was in the Alpes-Maritimes, where winds gusting at more than 60 mph fanned the racing flames.

A fireman was killed when flames engulfed a fire engine and an elderly lady died when she left her car to try to escape the fire. Two men died from heart attacks while trying to save their homes.

The fires, considered the worst for many years, have caused the evacuation of 2,000 people from their homes.

M Robert Pandraud, the Minister for Security, has

visited the area and put into effect an emergency plan to co-ordinate relief services.

He said 40 people had been arrested for arson this summer.

● **MADRID:** The Costa del Sol town of Mijas was yesterday declared to be out of danger after a blaze, started by sparks from a refuse dump, burnt about 100 hectares of grassland and woods on the edge of the settlement (Harry Debelius writes).

Another fire, in the southwest of the country, was still burning after four days.



M Pandraud: 40 arrested for starting fires this summer.

Reunion for family of Soviet dissident

Vienna (Reuter) — Mr Anatoly Shcharansky, the former Soviet dissident, was reunited yesterday with his mother, aged 77, who campaigned tirelessly for his release from a Soviet labour camp.

Mrs Ida Milgrom, a tiny white-haired figure, was asked about her plans. She replied: "To see my son and hug him, I want to live, live, live."

Mrs Milgrom, Mr Shcharansky's brother, Leonid, his wife, Raya, and their two sons arrived in Vienna on their way to Israel after receiving exit visas from the Soviet authorities last Tuesday.

It was the first time Mrs Milgrom had seen her younger son since January 1985. "I saw him then in prison. He was not free," she told reporters as she wiped tears from her eyes.

Mr Shcharansky served eight years of a 15-year sentence on spying charges until his release in February this year. He was allowed to leave the Soviet Union as part of an East-West prisoner exchange and lives in Israel with his wife, Avital.

Mr Leonid Shcharansky, aged 40, an engineer, said: "I am very, very tired after the last few days in the Soviet Union. There are so many correspondents here. It is difficult to face it again."



President Aquino of the Philippines watering a tree she had just planted at a cultural centre in Jakarta. President Suharto (left), who had two hours of talks with her, looks on.

Aquino advised to crush communism

Jakarta (Reuter) — President Suharto of Indonesia yesterday advised President Aquino of the Philippines, whose government is tackling a 17-year communist insurgency, to crush communism before it grows too strong.

His suggested approach contrasted sharply with Mrs Aquino's softer line towards communist rebels in the Philippines. She is attempting to arrange a ceasefire and persuade the rebels to surrender.

In wide-ranging talks lasting two hours, President Suharto was quoted as telling Mrs Aquino that he had 20 years' experience of fighting communism.

Asked at a press conference about Mrs Aquino's reaction to the advice, the Deputy Foreign Minister of the Philippines, Mrs Leticia Shabani, said in general the Philippine

leader took a more conciliatory approach. Mrs Shabani said many people had joined the communist New People's Army of the Philippines, which has an estimated 16,000 men under arms, because of economic conditions and abuse of human rights during the 20-year rule of former President Marcos.

She said they were different from the "hardcore of the Communist Party, who are undertaking their struggle through the use of arms and violence".

It was not sufficient for what she termed the softcore of the rebels to surrender. The Government needed funds to give them a new start.

President Aquino is due to leave Jakarta today for a 36-hour visit to Singapore before returning home tomorrow.

Eleven die in massacre

From Keith Dalton, Manila

Unidentified gunmen burst into a suburban home in the southern Philippine city of Zamboanga before dawn yesterday, killing 11 members of a family as they slept.

Neighbours said about 15 heavily-armed men, with M14 and M16 automatic rifles, barged into the house of Lieutenant Giliamin Agas and opened fire, killing him, his wife, daughter, three sons — one just six months old — his mother, father, two brothers and a niece.

Only a daughter, aged 7, survived but is reported to be in a critical condition.

Police gathered more than 100 spent cartridges from the floor of the house in an outer suburb of Zamboanga City.

Hours later, on the outskirts of the northern town of Tumbaga, nine soldiers and three civilian militiamen were killed by 80 communist rebels in an ambush, the Philippine News Agency reported.

Corsica poll re-run gives same result

From Our Correspondent, Paris

Upper Corsica, one of the two departments on the island, went to the polls again on Sunday, after its results in the March general election were declared null and void because of allegations of fraud.

On Sunday 54.6 per cent of the eligible population voted, against 63 per cent in March, but the results were the same, with the right-wing deputy, M Pierre Pasquini (RPR) and the left-wing deputy, M Emile Zuccarelli (MRG), being elected.

Precautions were taken to ensure there would be no repetition of the interference

with ballot boxes which occurred in March.

But in three voting stations in Bastia masked men armed with iron bars and hatchets broke in and overturned ballot boxes.

Corsica has suffered about 60 bombings and 30 hold-ups over the past two months, as well as serious forest fires that are damaging different parts of the island.

No one has been injured in the bombings, which have been aimed at specific targets. Responsibility for 41 of them has been claimed by the outlawed Corsican separatist movement, the FLNC.

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Non-Aligned Conference: Part 2

Action on South Africa to dominate debate

Officials of the 101 member states of the Non-Aligned Movement meet in Harare today to prepare for the organization's eighth summit, which opens next Monday. Jan Raath reports on the complex and diverse issues facing the movement, with pressure against South Africa certain to be pre-eminent.

The Non-Aligned Movement turns 25 next week in a location that would infinitely please the man behind its foundation, the late Marshal Tito of Yugoslavia.

The leaders of "two-thirds of humanity" are assembling in Africa's newest sovereign state, Zimbabwe, and will be directing their invective just a morning's drive southwards against the last outpost in the world of government based on discrimination by race.

South Africa will undoubtedly be the chief object of the summit's attention. Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe, in late July at the Organization of African Unity summit in Ad-

economic or political influence there.

The movement is credited with limited political clout generally. Most members are Third World countries with shaky economies and inferior military capacities.

But observers point to the body's greater effectiveness as a massive lobby group enjoying an array of connections with other international power groupings.

Officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here have given assurances that "proper attention" will also be given to the rest of the world's problems, ranging from super-power détente and nuclear disarmament to Third World debt burdens and population growth.

Among the movement's membership is counted nearly every trouble spot on the globe — Afghanistan, Lebanon, Libya, Nicaragua, Sri Lanka, Iran, Iraq, Cambodia, Korea, Morocco and Angola.

Following South Africa on the agenda is the Middle East situation, with "Israeli aggression" receiving the only specific mention.

The conference will put Mr Mugabe, who takes over the chairmanship on Monday next week from the Indian Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, on the spot as never before.

Though one of Africa's best known leaders, his influence is parochially restricted to southern Africa.

Nor has he ever played a significant role as a mediator, but rather as a protagonist in local and regional politics.

But his skills as a negotiator, his keen sense of diplomacy and his rich, outspoken articulacy would appear to arm him well for the rigours of the coming fortnight.

For that time Zimbabwe's national administration is expected to come to a near halt as an estimated two-thirds of the civil service dedicates itself exclusively to conference affairs.

According to budgetary estimates, Zimbabwe will be paying £12 million out of its own pocket on mounting the conference, excluding the cost of diverting the civil service and the armed forces, but local and foreign generosity plays a key part.

So far £4 million has been received in cash donations, but the list of gifts in kind is likely to far outstrip this figure.

The items donated read like a Customs rummage sale: 16 tonnes of Angolan sea food, 100 East German refrigerators, 12 motorcycles from the Palestine Liberation Organization, to name but a few.

Concluded



Mr Mugabe: chairmanship will put him on the spot.

dis Ababa, urged all OAU states — which make up more than half of the movement's membership — to attend to "make it our conference, a home affair," in further isolating South Africa.

According to a draft agenda drawn up by Zimbabwe, the southern African situation, dominated by the "internal repression and oppression in apartheid South Africa, the regime's destabilization of and aggression against the frontline states", as well as its occupation of Namibia, is the first item for discussion in the global political review, regarded as the most fundamental section of deliberations.

The issue is expected to be one of the few to receive the unanimous support of the members.

What they will be able to do by way of direct action against South Africa is marginal. Few of them have any weighty

Hold on to your hats.



SPECTRUM

Ah, so welcome in the valleys

Japanese companies have doubled their British investments since 1980. But are they making money, asks Stephen Aris

Once a week, regular as clockwork, Kazuo Murata, better known to his colleagues as Ken, summons the senior staff of Yuasa Battery (UK) for what is, in effect, a company prayer meeting.

Ken Murata, a friendly, unassuming man with unruly dark hair, dressed in overalls and boots, is managing director of the British subsidiary of one of Japan's - and the world's - largest specialist battery makers. Within four years, from its windswept base at Ebbw Vale, the company has captured 60 per cent of the British market and has, to its intense pride, won a Queen's Award for Exports - only the second British-based Japanese company to do so.

Since 1982, therefore, the theme of Murata's weekly sermon has been unfailingly optimistic. He talks of rising sales, increasing production and growing productivity. He also urges his staff to greater efforts. On the factory floor, a large sign exhorts the 210 staff - mainly ex-miners and steelworkers from the valleys - to "do a little better each day."

From day one the company has been a non-union shop and only now is it, like many Japanese and British companies, negotiating a single union agreement with Eric Hammond's electricians' union, the EEPFU.

Potentially, Yuasa is highly prosperous. In Murata's office, where he spends little time and which is used mainly to receive visitors, a chart forecasts that, by 1990, turnover will have risen from an initial £7 million to over £20 million.

Patient wait for profits

But among the charts and graphs covering the walls there is no mention of one subject: profits. Just how much money the company is making and how much, if any, is being sent back to Yuasa's parent in Osaka, is not disclosed.

It cost £3 million to set up the operation but, when grants and subsidies from the Welsh Development Agency and other bodies are taken into account, the company itself had to find no more than £1 million. Murata says it is doing so well that it has already recouped its net investment and on a month-by-month basis is making a healthy trading profit.

Since then, another £10 million has been injected to finance expansion up to 1990. This means the company is trading at a loss and, even if it achieves its targets, it will take at least three or four years to move back into the black.

But this does not dent Murata's confidence one bit. Like many Japanese companies operating in Britain and Europe, the finances of the parent group are strong and the shareholders, mostly banks and other institutions, are patient. For



Re-charging the batteries: Kazuo Murata and senior staff at the weekly "prayer meeting", a little bit of management, Japan-style, in South Wales

the time being they are content to take the long-term view and receive minimum dividends. As long as it continues to trade profitably they are prepared to wait for their return on investment.

This willingness to plough back profits to finance further expansion, and to capture larger slices of market share, is not peculiar to Yuasa. It is common to the majority of Japanese companies who, over the past five years, have come to Europe in force.

A recent survey by Jetro, the Japanese government body, on the profitability of 115 Japanese companies operating in Europe, reveals the surprising fact that 50, well over 40 per cent, are losing money or only just breaking even.

The explanation is not hard to find. "You must remember", says Felicity Marsh, wife of Lord Marsh, the former Labour Cabinet minister, who has made a special study of Japanese investment in Europe, "that unlike most Western companies, the Japanese are prepared to take a long-term view. Their priorities are not an immediate return on capital but, by relentlessly concentrating on quality control and production techniques, to build up a sound operating base."

"The fact that, again unlike most Western companies, the parent companies in Japan are cash-rich and shareholders are very passive, is also an advantage."

These fundamental differences in approach to investment and profit have caused problems in the past. By all accounts it was the reason for the collapse, a couple of years ago, of a joint venture between Lord Weinstock's General Electric Company and Hitachi, the electronics firm. "The attitude of the two companies proved to be totally incompatible. Hitachi was prepared to spend a lot of money while GEC

was only interested in a quick return", says Lady Marsh.

Over the past five years there has been an explosion of Japanese investment in Europe and, particularly, Britain. Scotland is the most favoured destination but Wales, with 11 companies employing 3,500 people, is not far behind. Overall, the figures show that the volume of Japanese investment in Britain on an annual basis has more than

doubled since 1980 - from £125 million to £250 million in 1986. The most spectacular example is Nissan Motors, whose £50 million Sunderland factory begins full production early in September, with a workforce of 310 and a target of 24,000 cars a year. Next year the company will decide whether to move to phase two, which would see the workforce increased to 3,000 and production to 100,000 cars a year.

Like Yuasa, Nissan, after a good deal of internal debate and indecision, came to Britain because it feared a loss in competitive edge. The continuing strength of the yen was threatening to damage profitability of its Japanese-based export operation and there were political pressures. Britain was among Western governments warning of reprisals unless Japan curbed its export effort. As the Japanese saw it, a programme of direct investment abroad made sense, economically and politically.

Nervous Japanese industrialists were encouraged towards this by their government and the Keidanren, the powerful employers' organization, which has far more clout than its British counterpart, the CBI. "We believe that direct investment will help reduce Japan's balance of trade surplus and have been urging companies to do this for some years", says Hajime Ohta, the Keidanren's man in London.

Plainly, the Nissan venture is in a different league to Yuasa's comparatively modest operation in Ebbw Vale. But the attitudes to production and profit are similar. Like Yuasa, Nissan is not looking for quick returns. "There's no way we can make money for some time", says Nissan's chief spokesman, Toshiaki Yasuda. "The Sunderland factory will not break even until it is producing a 100,000 cars a year and that will take at least three or four years. We are more interested in

long-term stability than short-term gains."

The firm has invested a good deal of time and money training the workforce and introducing them to the Japanese way of thinking. Teams from Sunderland have been sent to Japan to see for themselves. But the one thing Nissan says it will never do is lay people off, irrespective of how badly the firm is doing. "Once you start doing that, you lose their confidence", says Yasuda. "If, on the other hand, you show you are doing all you can by cutting prices

and overheads, people will appreciate it and do their best when things improve."

So far, so good. Both the Welsh and the Geordies have responded well to their new masters and sometimes strange customs. The Japanese managers have assumed British Christian names, tactfully drive British cars, and send their children to British schools. In Ebbw Vale, they drink beer and discuss the fluctuating fortunes of Welsh rugby.

But will the honeymoon last? The Japanese are friendly and cheerful but they are also great worriers. And though most are too polite to say so, there is, one can detect, an underlying uncertainty, best expressed by a Japanese diplomat working for the Ministry of Foreign Trade. "I am a little bothered", he confessed, "by what has happened to American companies who have been here much longer. They don't seem to have been very successful. Perhaps they have become too British. I wonder if that's going to happen to us. 20 years hence."

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Do a little better each day



East by north east: Wearside next to Toshiaki Yasuda of Nissan

Bothered by the prospects

inspired. The children's programme *Seaside Street* has its own Alistair Cooke, and the Disney cable-TV channel its *Masterpiece Theatre*.

To us, of course, Cooke is best known for his weekly *Letter from America*, the longest-running series in radio history, which can be heard in almost every country around the world except for the US - he has resisted attempts to widen the American audience beyond a select band of short-wave listeners, feeling it would split the target. A *New York Times* reviewer once described the tone of his 15-minute talks as that of a "stern but kindly headmaster addressing a recalcitrant schoolboy", and the teacher's hat is firmly in place in *Masterpiece Theatre*.

When Hudson and Mrs Bridges had a below-stairs grumble about falling standards, Cooke was on hand with his between-stairs ruminations on the battle of the Somme. When a 1920s mood was in order for Frederick Lonsdale's *On Approval*, Cooke was there in his dinner jacket, to illustrate the sartorial habits of BBC radio announcers of the time.

Describing himself modestly as a "knockabout historian", he researches and writes his own introductions, which are recorded on specially constructed sets. The packaging for *Star Quality*, a Noel Coward series which will reach American television screens in the autumn, includes the white piano and an elaborate assembly of theatrical costume trunks and pink neon lights. *Winston Churchill: The Wilderness Years* had a red-wallpapered

The secrets of Cooke's tour de force

How Britain's voice of America for more than 40 years stays in tune

The scene is a television studio in a nondescript concrete building next to the Pepsi-Cola bottling plant in Boston, Massachusetts. Seated behind an enormous white grand piano is the man known to Britons as the voice of America and to Americans as the archetypal Englishman. He turns to the camera. "Good evening", he says, "I'm Alistair Cooke..."

As host of the American television series *Masterpiece Theatre*, which celebrates its 15th birthday this year, Cooke has acted as front man for transatlantic imports as varied as *Upstairs Downstairs*, *The Jewel in the Crown* and *The Irish R.M.* Unlike British viewers, who are expected to take their culture cold, Americans are used to a master of ceremonies figure to signal a change from the prime-time diet of cop shows and sitcoms and Cooke's urbane and informative introductions have become a part of the regular Sunday evening date with the classics. His position as a television institution is confirmed by the number of parodies he has

room with a view, *Mountbatten* a giant classical column. A carved wooden staircase was provided for *Upstairs, Downstairs*, an all-time *Masterpiece Theatre* favourite because it confirmed so many popular preconceptions. "Americans think the British are either aristocrats or Cockneys", Cooke says. "Essentially the Edwardian things give you a picture people want to see."

Meeting Alistair Cooke, in his New York apartment, is like meeting an old family friend. The setting is familiar; his study with its red leather chair and books arranged from A to Z was used to film the beginning and end of the BBC's *America* series. And his conversation, like his broadcasting style, is witty and anecdotal.

He was born in Manchester in 1908 and educated at Cambridge (where he took a first in English), Yale and Harvard. His original interest was in the theatre and films. He worked in Hollywood with Charlie Chaplin on a film script about Napoleon

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Stern but kind: Alistair Cooke, a media institution

in exile (it was never produced), and spent three years as film critic for the BBC. But he discovered his true vocation as a London commentator for NBC, covering such historic events as the abdication of Edward VIII and the Munich agreement. He emigrated to America in 1937, became a citizen in 1941, and worked as foreign correspondent first for *The Times*, then *The Guardian*. His first *Letter* was broadcast in 1946. He retired to concentrate on that and the *America* series in 1972. He was knighted the following year.

"I still think of myself as an Englishman who lives in the US, which doesn't prevent me from feeling totally at home in both countries", Cooke, who is married to an American, says. His role, as a kind of cultural link between the two countries, is a relatively recent one. "Originally, the job was reporting on America", he says. "Editors would call me from time to time whenever there was some crisis in British politics. I would say: 'I know nothing about British politics, but if you want to know how to get a fruit franchise in southern California, I can tell you'."

Cooke visits England two or three times a year, and keeps in touch by means of *The Economist*, *The Guardian Weekly*, and a network of friends. "I am grateful that I was born in England and lived there until 24, because I can keep an eye cocked for what's American."

Sally Dugan

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Adonis, blue with cold. Why Britain's butterflies are fighting for their survival. This has been the summer of the butterfly shortage. Normally at this time of year there are plenty of bright specimens around, and the buddleia bushes are dotted with peacocks and tortoiseshells. But only the whites seem to be thriving, and to spot anything more interesting has been quite an event. Why is this? According to John Tatham of the British Butterfly Conservation Society, the number one culprit is the weather. After 20 months of mild winter across much of the country, you could hardly expect better. Butterflies need the sun - most simply don't fly without it - and a spring so extremely cold and wet got the butterfly year off to the worst possible start. But it is not the weather alone that is to blame, as John Tatham makes clear. Modern agricultural practices have led to widespread loss of habitat - 165,000 miles of hedgerow ploughed up in the last 20 years, chalk downland disappearing under arable, marshlands being drained, woods felled. Butterflies and intensive farming simply don't mix. Pesticides, killing unselectively, are a problem - especially when sprayed from helicopters - and weedkillers have hugely reduced the variety of wild plants on farmland. What is the outlook for our butterflies? Four of them are endangered species under legal protection, and for one of these it is already too late. The Large Blue is now extinct here, but it is hoped that it may be reintroduced from Scandinavian stock. The spectacular Swallow Tail is still breeding in its handful of Fenland locations, and the Chequered Skipper, now extinct in England, survives in one colony in the north-west of Scotland. The Heath Fritillary is limited to one location in Kent

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1037. ACROSS: 1 Japanese drama (6), 5 Car lifier (4), 8 Spoor (5), 9 Salad plant (7), 11 Tusk animal (8), 13 Failure (4), 15 Unbroken (13), 17 Superb (4), 18 Exaggerated (8), 21 Score (7), 22 Impressive (5), 23 Occident (4), 24 Bear (6). DOWN: 2 Alert (5), 3 Bristol Channel river (3), 4 Tax office (6,7), 5 Bolted spring (4), 6 Two line verse (7), 7 Reduced (10), 10 Suitability (10), 12 Native shelters (4), 14 Contented cat nose (19), 15 Smell (5), 16 Cobble's black (10), 18 Deadlock (7), 22 Unhappy (3). SOLUTIONS TO No 1036: ACROSS: 1 Cingo, 4 Coverman, 8 Lives, 9 Anulus, 10 Portibus, 11 Adolecence, 17 Cube, 18 Manikin, 21 Lockjaw, 22 Be, 23 Swear, 24 Ellis. DOWN: 1 Caliph, 2 River, 3 Obscure, 4 Charles Darwin, 5 Mollusc, 7 Nurse, 12 Wet nurse, 14 Debauch, 15 Scales, 16 Linger, 18 Kahl, 20 Ajar.

Blazering a trail

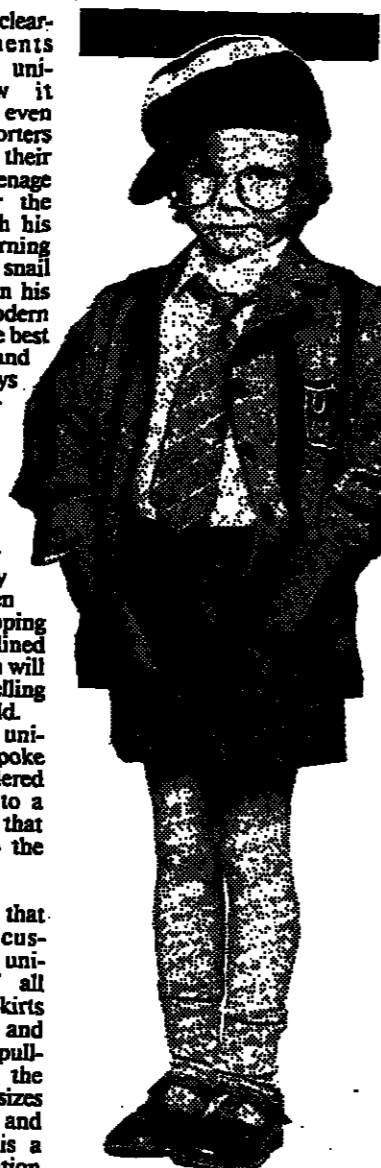
Back-to-school clothes pose a dilemma for parents and their children but Jane Procter finds solutions in the high street

One are the clear-cut arguments about school uniform. Now it seems that even the most fanatic supporters waver, especially when their child approaches the teenage years. It is no longer the "whining schoolboy with his satchel and shining morning face, creeping like snail unwillingly to school". In his stead is a bright modern counterpart dressed in the best that the outfitters, shops and chain stores can offer. Boys do seem to accept uniforms with a certain equanimity, but one does wonder if there is really a case for a uniform for the adolescent girl. It is very difficult to make a 13-year-old wear a strict uniform. Many parents send their children to independent schools hoping that, in a properly disciplined environment, the uniform will be worn correctly. Try telling that to the said 13-year-old.

Girls loathe wearing uniforms, and one mother I spoke to recently has considered moving her 13-year-old to a non-uniform school so that she can kiss goodbye to the fights and frustrations.

The problem is that young girls customize their uniforms out of all recognition. Skirts are instantly shortened and tightened. Regulation pull-overs are purchased in the largest and slopiest sizes possible — and if a Marks and Spencer men's size 44 is a close enough approximation to what is required, then that is what will be worn.

The school coat or blazer is rarely considered suitable garb, and young girls will willingly go to school in sub-zero temperatures clad in a thin cardigan, rather than suffer the ignominy of the gaberdrain raincoat. Fashion is obviously paramount. As a friend summed it up: "In 1971 when I was 11, I was sent home from school because my skirt was too short; in 1975 I was sent home because it was too long." Patricia Fleming is headmistress of my old school, Queen's College, Harley Street, which dispensed with uniforms decades ago. "If a school has a uniform," she says, "teachers waste valuable teaching time nagging children about the colour of their socks." The only advantage of uniforms she could think of was being able to identify pupils on a school outing. The regular arguments in favour of uniforms include the social statement that they mask differences in parental income. But when the teachers at South Hampstead High, an independent school which is part of the nationwide Girls' Public Day School Trust, voted to abolish school uniform, the girls protested and managed to conjure up several more pro-uniform arguments. The non-uniform-wearing sixth-formers were the authors of the following statements: a school uniform eliminates the worry of what to wear each day; it gives you a pride in your school plus



Hugh in a uniform from outfitters Eric Thomas, 142-146 Station Road, Sidcup, Kent and branches; striped cap £1.99, blazer £32.99, shirt from £3.99, striped tie £1.25, shorts from £3.99, socks £1.99, and leather satchel £8.99. Shoes from Harrods

stipulates merely that its boys should wear a dark suit and a white shirt with one of the mandatory ties — for house, sport or school. Ideal for boys who wish to express their own individuality and for parents who can purchase the component parts at a price and shop of their choice. As so many of its boys are kitted out at Marks and Spencer, Westminster did consider placing the chain store on its official supplier list but decided that, for a comprehensive range, its present outfitter was more suitable. Most state schools have some form of non-specific uniform based on colours — usually in the navy, grey, black, bottle, burgundy spectrum, and individual items can be bought from chain stores or school outfitters depending on preference.

The chain stores do an excellent job in providing practical washable basics which can be slotted in to most of the more enlightened schools' uniforms, but the main criticism levelled at them is that they view the supply of schoolwear as a seasonal sale and it is down to the trusty old school outfitter to constantly stock the bulk of the paraphernalia of a school kit.

As a result of carrying stock all year round, the prices at the local outfitter are often slightly dearer. But the local shops definitely score on fitting and service. They also stock non-standard sizes which are essential for the chubbier or taller child to avoid the ridiculous.

Independent outfitters are also the best place for sportswear — which has become an all-important part of most school wardrobes, with everything from judo to cricket to gymnastics on the curriculum. In many schools, sportswear has come off the playing fields and into the classrooms as accepted uniform. Sweatshirts, often printed with the school's badge or motto, are as popular with the pupils as with the teachers and parents.

One might not expect cost to be a factor at a school like Rodean. But economics have definitely played a part in the relaxing of its regulations in recent years. It has done away with its coveted (at least by girls from other schools) flowing cloaks. A spokesman for the school says: "They were much too expensive — most of the girls wear duffel coats nowadays. And they seem to spend half their day in a tracksuit."

Now that many schools have abandoned the more costly items like overcoats and hats, most mothers agree that school uniform is a fairly reasonable way of dressing a child during term time, especially if the school or its Parent Teacher Association operates a second-hand sale system. Many schools where there is no uniform find that they have one foisted upon them by a concerned PTA who feel that a few basic items, say a

a feeling of solidarity, and it eliminates competition. All good Blazer of Glory stuff. But it does sound as if the sixth form wanted to retain their them-and-us identity, and the decision was unfortunate for their headmistress, Averil Burgess, who had voted for the demise of the uniform. She agrees with Patricia Fleming that the uphill battle to police the uniform is pretty daft. But in its favour she does comment: "It provides a reasonably harmless method of protest. I would rather that the girls made their statement with a slit skirt or a ritualized holey woollie than let their protest emerge in some other form which might be infinitely more undesirable." When a uniform is absent, it is interesting to see just how loose the pupils' kit can be. St Paul's Girls' School stipulates merely that the girls should wear shoes. And they don't mean shoes as opposed to trainers. The colour-coded solution hit upon by many schools is one answer. Westminster School



Top row, left: Maxwell, 9, wears his everyday uniform from Summer Fields near Oxford. Red aertex shirt under navy guernsey sweater with navy cord jeans. Sunday best uniform is a tweed jacket, long-sleeved shirt and long trousers. Top row, right: Rory, 7, in his uniform from the Manor Prep School in Abingdon. Aertex shirt and shorts with conventional blazer. Front row, left: his sister Charlotte, 4, wears her Manor uniform of green pinafore and white shirt. She also has a blazer. Front row, centre: Calypso, 5, wears her Faulkner House uniform of Wee Willie Winkie hat and scarf in bright red wool and navy and red cape. The tie, shirt and pleated skirt with braces that go underneath are perfectly conventional. Front row, right: Hugh, also 5, wears his Hill House uniform of brick red cord breeches, fawn shirt and slipover

Right: At Maxwell's school, Summer Fields, the boys are allowed an anorak of their choice. This is his — a jacket just like his father's. In thimbleproof waxed cotton it costs £85 from Burberrys, Haymarket, SW1 and branches



Rory wears non-uniform: shirt £10.90, V-neck sweater £22.90, check trousers £18.90, all from Benetton's 0-12 branches. Shoes by Bally, £23.95. Calypso wears needlecord pinafore £15.95, and frilled shirt £10.95, from Laura Ashley. Shoes £9.99, from Saxone and Lilley & Skinner



A formal Charlotte and Hugh. Charlotte's navy blazer £45.75, Harrods; shirt £10.95, Laura Ashley; wool kilt £13.99, C&A; shoes £9.99, Lilley & Skinner and Saxone. Hugh's navy blazer, polyester-wool, £29.99, C&A; shirt £10.75, shorts £18.75 and shoes, Harrods

denim smock, a sweatshirt and a T-shirt, make for a happier life all round. Going totally against the tide, an elaborate and strictly adhered-to school uniform is very much in fashion at the London prep schools. As almost all very young children are delighted to wear a uni-

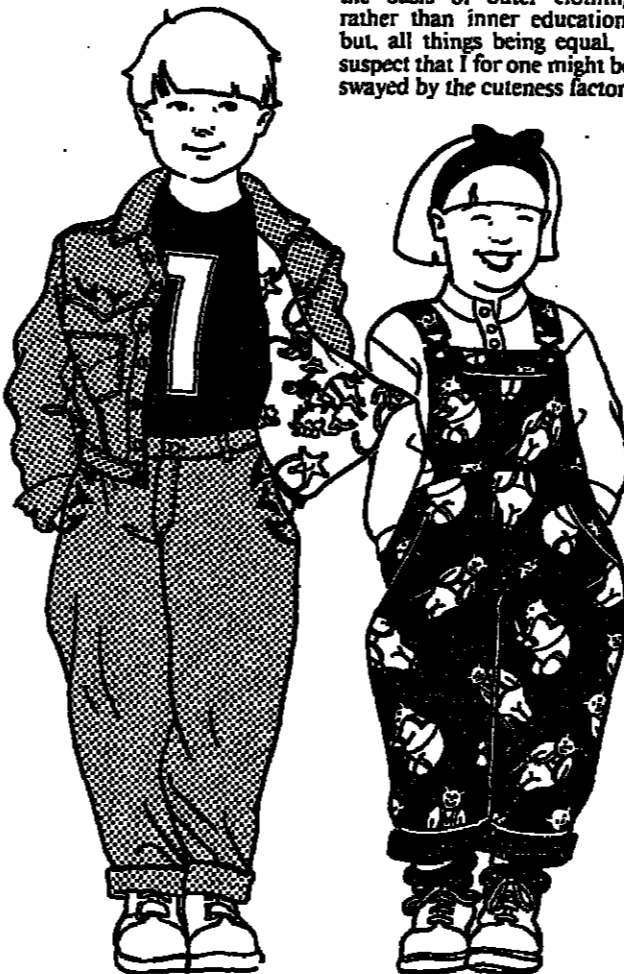
form — it makes them feel grown up — both the small ones and their Yuppy parents are happy. Certain of these uniforms are so distinctive and appealing that they must surely act as a discreet form of advertising. I assume that most parents are unlikely to choose a school on the basis of outer clothing; but, all things being equal, I suspect that I for one might be swayed by the cuteness factor.

So tough out on kids' row

Little Lord Fauntleroy's should watch out for the new wave of rough-tough street kids (Rebecca Tyrrel writes). After-school wear emulates that of the grown-ups with cowboy jackets and faded denims, scaled-down baseball jackets and the original Levi 501s. For little girls who prefer to be tomboys, baggy dungarees with bright splashes of colour leave prissy pinafores for Sunday best.

Fashion-wise kids stalk the same hunting grounds as their elders. Meenys in the King's Road is for grown-up kids as well as their children. It sells hard-wearing cords and the latest accessories for cool kids about town: a metal lunch-box or canvas rucksack. French Connection's children's collection is also a scaled-down version of the adults'. In the shops now are button-up grandad shirts with leggings, stone-washed denim and oversized sweatshirts in a rainbow of bright colours.

Italian children are always immaculately dressed without being precocious. Benetton's 0-12 shops have collegiate sweaters and jumbo cords which are practical and fun. More important, parents like them as much as the children.



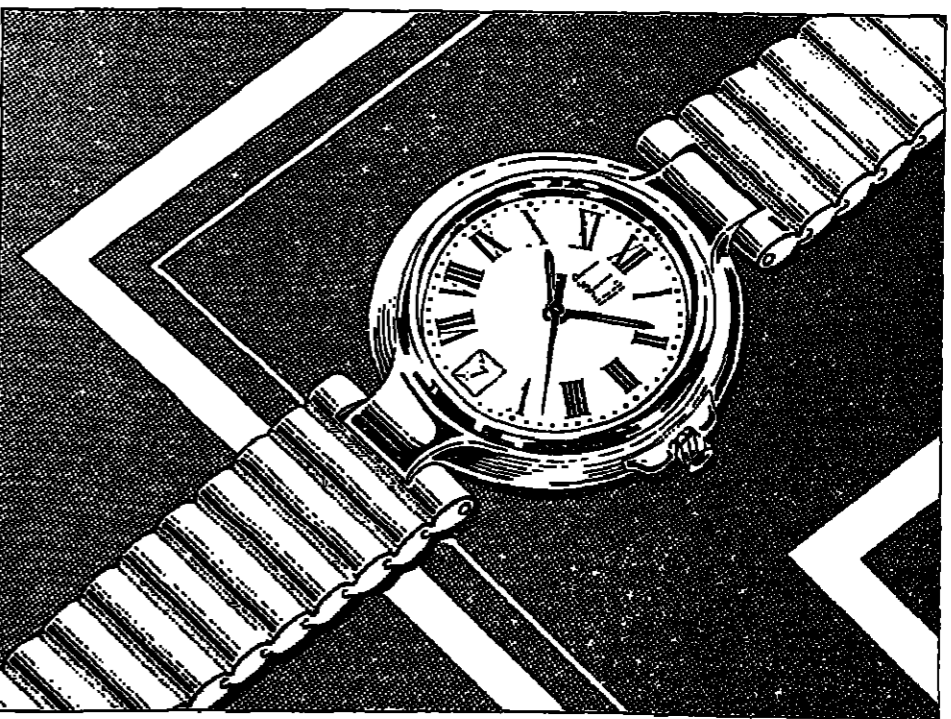
Left: Denim cowboy jacket £49.90, matching jeans, £23.90, sizes 3 to 12 years, all from Benetton 0-12 branches

Right: Basking bear motif dungarees £33, green cotton jersey crew-neck sweater with popper fastening £21, both from Cacharel, 103 New Bond Street, W1

Photographs by David Anthony
Illustrations by Joyce MacDonald

Hair by Ruth Funnell at Sessions
● Suzy Menkes is on holiday

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THE TIMES DIARY

Massacres and muzzlers

Count Nikolai Tolstoy is to address visitors to the Federation of Conservative Students' annual conference after all. The White Russian author of the book which accuses Harold Macmillan of sending 40,000 Cossacks to their deaths in 1945 was invited months ago by the FCS to join Jeffrey Archer and George Walden as a speaker at their weekend conference in Leicestershire in two weeks time. But after the rumpus over the restatement of Tolstoy's allegations in their magazine, Conservative Central Office warned the FCS that if it went ahead with the address all its funding would be withdrawn. In the end the federation backed down, booking Rhodes Boyson to speak instead. However, Tolstoy will be present - as a guest of the Association for a Free Russia, of which he is a patron. He tells me he still fully intends to speak, despite a telephone call from Smith Square urging him not to.

As you were

The constant renaming of streets and squares in Moscow after dead heroes and historical events is to be curbed. A commission has been set up to this end, and among the first to revert to their previous identities will be the Lermontovskaya underground station, ne Krasnye Vorota or Beautiful Gates, and Frunzensky Val street - named after a Bolshevik revolutionary - which will go back to being Weavers Street in Russian. The news will come as a source of hope for those who still refer to Leningrad as St Petersburg.

Tall order

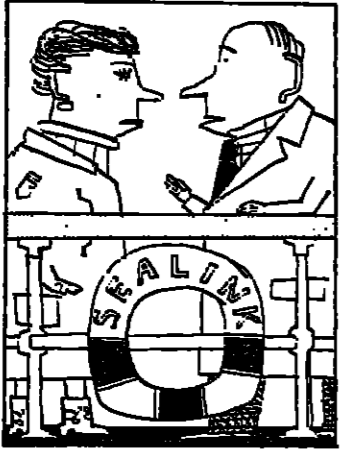
Dutchmen are getting so tall that the standard doorway size in the Hague has had to be lengthened four inches to 6 ft 11 in. And many new recruits to the army are so tall - 477 this year topping 6 ft 7 in - that orders have been placed for longer barrack room bunks. There must be something in the lager.

● A report just published by the Transport and Research Laboratory on the regulation of minibuses in the EEC was written by a Mr L. Pickup.

Rope trick

In his newly published *The Sycophiles. Affairs, rent-a-coup Colonel "Mad" Mike Hoare* pays tribute to Tory MP Nicholas Fairbairn for organizing the defence of his mercenary invaders at their subsequent trial in South Africa, whence they set out and whence they returned. The colonel recalls a dinner in Durban during which the flamboyant Fairbairn vaunted the fact that no client of his had ever suffered the death penalty. "I took comfort from that," writes Hoare, "and as it turned out once again, his record was to remain unblemished." In fact, with the South African government reported to have been more than slightly involved in the fiasco, Hoare and Co escaped the rope by the proverbial mile.

BARRY FANTONI



'It's a lot less bovine than a hover'

Backlash

The invitation by Peter Imbert, deputy commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, to the rank and file to submit cost-cutting suggestions has produced one - from a number of bobbies - which he is unlikely to endorse: abolition of his own job on the grounds that he has little to do except fill in while the commissioner is on holiday. Sir Robert Mark, a former commissioner, once called the deputy's position "the worst job in the force" because it carried no real authority. Imbert's critics note that axing his post would save £43,152 a year, as well as perks which include chauffeur-driven car and a tax-free housing allowance: enough to take on five cadets at a time when Imbert's boss, Sir Kenneth Newman, is complaining that the force is seriously under strength.

Newtered

Newt lover Ken Livingstone is celebrating the first big victory in his campaign to protect their ponds from the advances of the property men. After lobbying by Livingstone and experts from the British Herpetological Society, the Nature Conservancy Council has designated one of the country's biggest colonies of great crested newts - at Epsom in Surrey - as a site of special scientific interest. It is only the second in Britain to be officially protected. But one problem has yet to be overcome: guppies recently camped nearby, and are filling the pond with their rubbish. PHS

Codes, laws and almost-laws

Winston Fletcher urges a critical look at the ever-growing list of anomalous measures for disciplining the commercial world

Codes of practice have become the parliamentary flavour of the times. The first, the Highway Code, came into being in 1930. By 1971 only half a dozen minor and obscure codes were extant. But since 1973, 25 statutes have been passed under which 48 codes of practice could be published.

The present government prefers voluntary codes, drafted and administered by the industries to which they apply. The Labour Party is unsurprisingly suspicious of such self-administered controls, and has plans to introduce a great number of statutory codes. The Alliance prefers voluntary codes but would enact statutory codes wherever voluntary ones proved inadequate.

Codes of practice already permeate many aspects of our lives, whether we are aware of it or not. Yet their exact legal status and role is far from certain and by no means well understood by many of the politicians rooting for them.

In a House of Lords debate earlier this year, Lord Campbell of Alloway, quoting Lord Elwyn-Jones, said: "Reliance upon these codes [is] representative of a modern and unhealthy trend towards rules of indeterminate status." Lord Campbell went on to define five different types of statutory code and pointed out that some of them - quoting Lord Scarman - "lack any legal significance", whereas others are to all intents and purposes laws of the land.

The Fair Trading Act of 1973 provided the then newly-created Office of Fair Trading with a duty to encourage the development of industry codes. Section 124 (3) requires the OFT's director-gen-

eral "to encourage relevant organizations to prepare, and to disseminate to their members, codes of practice for guidance in safeguarding the interests of consumers in the United Kingdom".

Twenty such codes have been created, covering such diverse services as laundering, double-glazing and funerals. However, many of these codes by no means satisfy the Labour Party. It states in its recently published *Charter For Consumers*: "Voluntary codes of practice have been introduced with the support of the OFT. But in too many cases these have proved ineffective or limited in scope, and the powers of the OFT to enforce orders slow and cumbersome."

The charter proposes "statutory codes of practice dealing with particular aspects of trading or with specific trades. They would cover all relevant companies and be properly enforced."

One might reasonably ask, what is the difference between codes of practice and laws? What has prompted this new-found fashion for codes of practice and what are their advantages over traditional, old-fashioned statutes?

The eminently practical justification for the original Highway Code was that it provided directions for sensible behaviour which could not possibly be enforced as law. For example, while motorists can be instructed by the code to look in their mirrors before

overtaking, it would be quite impossible to prosecute every motorist who failed to do so.

The Highway Code can, however, to quote Lord Denning, "be taken into account by a magistrate or judge trying a civil or criminal case and is therefore not without legal significance" - even though it is not a statute which is imperative and which one could be punished for disobeying. Within this context, Lord Denning added, the Highway Code works admirably.

Similar advantages pertain to some of the more recent codes. For example, the Industrial Relations Act of 1971 authorized the secretary of state to issue a code for the guidance of management and workers. Its prescriptions are taken into account in industrial legal actions; so as with the Highway Code, they have legal significance.

Many other industrial codes, however, have no (or at least no apparent) legal significance. Take the code for advertising practice. Like most voluntary codes it operates entirely outside the law.

Yet the Advertising Standards Authority executes summary justice: an advertiser has no means of appeal if he feels unjustly treated. Nor has he any recourse to law, since publicists reserve the right to reject advertisements, and they always wish to reject advertisements that have been declared unacceptable by the authority.

The advocates of voluntary codes claim, with some force, that they operate more quickly, more effectively and more cheaply than legislative controls ever could. It is argued too that because they have the support of the industry concerned, voluntary codes can be and are applied in the spirit as well as in the letter - that being the power of self-regulatory justice.

However, with a profusion of new codes being launched - the Securities and Investments Board will father a host of them; far from inexpensively, through its subsidiary self-regulating organizations - it is surely time for their legal status to be clarified, and for some awkward questions to be resolved.

When, for example, Parliament seeks to approve a code word-by-word and line-by-line, as it did in the case of the recent Local Government Act, surely it would be more sensible for the code to be enacted as law. And where a code has statutory backing, as for example the Independent Broadcasting Authority's code of advertising, surely there should be some mechanism for legal appeal against decisions that can be made almost arbitrarily, as many are at present by the statutory body involved.

One cannot escape the feeling, as with all fashions, that the present partiality of politicians for codes of practice arises at least as much from their trendy image as from their suitability. "We are beset by codes of practice on every side," said Lord Airedale in the Lords debate. Is it not time we tried to sort them out?

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The author is a director of the advertising agency Delaney Fletcher Delaney.

Wing Kristol
Abandon your lordships

In a recent issue of *The Spectator*, I came across these opening sentences of an economics commentary: "The Viscount White-law of Penrith is a big lad. It is perhaps, just as well. A more fragile frame might have buckled under the combined weight of Lords Clewyn and Ezra, and Lady Secar, applied at the end of a long hard summer in the Upper House."

Reading those words in New York, one experiences a sense of vertigo. Is this serious journalism or a mimicry of Evelyn Waugh? Are those real people, or fictitious? And if - as one suspects - they are real people, why aren't they using their real names?

Let me say quickly that I have nothing against the House of Lords, or the peerage in general, or titles and honours of any kind, even hereditary ones. They are indeed rather nice and serve the purpose of encouraging individuals to pursue (or maintain) personal distinction, something very desirable in our democratic age. In this respect, they resemble military decorations.

But there is this difference: People do not ordinarily walk around in civilian clothes with their military decorations on loud display; nor do they change their names after being decorated. They reserve their use of medals and ribbons for ceremonial occasions.

Why should it be otherwise with titles? Why should anyone wish it to be otherwise?

So I will make a modest proposal: From this time on, let the British media ignore all titles except on ceremonial occasions. Call people Mr. or Mrs. Mrs. or even Ms. Let everyone travel through life under his or her real name. On ceremonial occasions, their assumed names may be given in parentheses, or vice versa.

As many will be quick to realize, this is a somewhat less innocent proposal than it seems. That is because it touches on one of the most sensitive of British concerns. I refer, of course, to class and class consciousness.

The English are a very peculiar people. They exude class distinctions and consciousness as a spider exudes his web. But unlike the spider, a great many Englishmen (and many more Welsh and Scots) find themselves trapped in their own web, and are likely to become irritated, frustrated or even downright enraged. This is an unhealthy situation.

I remember seeing John Osborne's *Look Back in Anger* early in its London run. My younger British friends thought it was a wonderful play. I was

completely baffled. Why didn't this hero simply tell his wife's father and family to go away and stop bothering him? Indeed, they weren't bothering him, so far as I could determine, but he was nevertheless bothered by them - bothered to the point of fury. Obviously, it had something to do with the sense of class, but I couldn't figure out what, or why.

I also recall when, as co-editor with Stephen Spender of *Encounter*, we published Nancy Milford's famous article on U and non-U. I thought it an amusingly perceptive little essay, and was startled by the public uproar that followed. (I believe that even Stephen was surprised.)

Once again, the spectre of class seemed to be haunting the British

imagination, though in ways that an American could not easily comprehend. Why should anyone much care whether a "napkin" is or is not a "serviette"?

But it is clear that the British people do care. It is also clear to me that there is an element of self-destructiveness in this caring. Since returning to America, almost three decades ago, I have met dozens of British emigrants who have assured me that escaping from the "class system" was one of the blessings they most appreciated in America. When I inquired further, it always turned out that this "class system" was less a sociological reality than a subjective code that governed perception and sensibility. But it was nonetheless real for that.

So it does seem to me that the British media - print, radio and television - would alleviate much psychic anxiety, and diminish what, in extreme cases, amounts to psychic trauma, if they simply began to ignore all those titles in their mundane reportage. It's a small step, but in the right direction. It is also an easy step to make. To do it, all you have to do is - do it.

The author is editor of The Public Interest.

moreover . . . Miles Kingston
Yes sir, yes sir, teabags full

Today's column is devoted entirely to letters received recently from avid collectors, all of them answered by our regular expert, Rupert Curio. Dr Curio, you may be interested to know, was recently offered the post of director of the National Gallery, but turned it down on the grounds that Trafalgar Square was not the sort of area he cared to be seen in. All yours, Rupert.

I have recently started collecting teabags and already have a collection of over 600. What was the earliest known teabag? - C.M. of Newcastle.

As far as we know, the earliest teabag was made as long ago as 1824 by Mrs Harriet Townsend of Bristol. It was hand stitched from finest Irish linen, and embroidered with a scene from Byron on one side and with homely proverbs on the other; it cost the equivalent of a working man's annual wage, so it was presumably not intended for a mass market. It was, by the way, re-usable - one simply unstitched the teabag after use and filled it with fresh tea.

The second known teabag was made in 1825, also by Mrs Harriet Townsend. By 1830 she was up to three teabags a year.

I enclose a photograph of a picture which I recently found in my attic. It is dated 1850, and is of an unknown Victorian lady, who seems to be sewing or knitting. Can you tell me anything about it? - G.M. of Blackpool.

Yes, it is rubbish. Can you tell me anything else about it? - G.M. of Blackpool.

Yes. Very often when we find an object that is rubbish at first sight, there are often ways of increasing its value by careful juggling with the facts. If, for instance, this turned out to be the only known portrait of Mrs Harriet Townsend actually making one of her fabulous teabags, and this can be done with the right expert, then your painting would be worth thousands of pounds. At least, it would be when the early history of teabags became more popular.

I recently went through my attic in the hope of finding something incredibly valuable among the usual family rubbish. Much to my chagrin, I found the attic entirely bare except for the water tank. I enclose a picture of the water tank, which has been in the family for generations. Do you think it is worth anything? - M.T. of S.W.11.

It is hard to tell from your photo, which seems to have been taken in the dark, but this could be a very rare find. If indeed it is an example of the Townsend Utility Tea Carrier. At the outbreak of the Crimean War, there was a sudden demand for new methods of

refreshment for the troops, and Mrs Harriet Townsend of Bristol invented the first method of dispensing tea en masse. She mounted a tank on wheels and put pillow-slips filled with tea into the boiling water; these are believed to be the biggest tea-bags ever made. Later Mrs Townsend's invention was adapted to make the first water cannon.

I'm a collector in the comparatively new field of methods of crowd and riot control and I have recently acquired a primitive water cannon from the Victorian era. Can you explain to me how it works? - D.K. of Edinburgh.

Certainly. The very first water cannons were actually powered by the mob itself. A large cushion filled with water was laid down in the expected path of the unruly and dissatisfied crowd. As they rushed over this pad of water, the pressure on the liquid inside built up so much that when they turned the next corner, they found a large nozzle facing them; when activated it released a jet of water at very high velocity. The machine, the so-called Townsend Squirter, fell into disuse when mobs learned to step round the water-filled cushion.

I specialize in locating submerged wrecks and plundering them. That is why they have found so little of value in the Titanic - I got there first many years ago. However, that is by the way. I just wanted to know out of curiosity what happened to Mrs Harriet Townsend in later years. - J.N. of Bristol.

Embittered by the failure of the Townsend Squirter, Mrs Townsend next embraced the invention of the telephone. She invented the idea of the answering machine, but as there was no machine capable of taking recorded messages in those days, she arranged for a stenographer to be present in every empty house while the owner was out, just to take messages. The service was a great success and the Townsend Telephone Girls, as they were known, later went on a triumphant visit to New York, where many of them fell in love with and became married to American aristocrats.

Harriet Townsend spent her declining years dabbling in spiritualism and claimed to be in constant contact with the spirit of Brunel. When pressed for details, she would only say that she was desperate for a good cigar. She died in Bristol in 1890, and supposedly had a box of cigars buried with her.

Do you have a collector query? Don't hesitate to get in touch.

As the SPD holds its annual conference, Frank Johnson assesses the man challenging Kohl for the chancellorship

What hope for Germany's Neil Kinnock?



Rau: warm, compassionate and affable, but does he know what's going on?

affable head not much is going on.

Concerning the latter, a Herr Klaus Bolling is about to say as much in a new book on the state of West German politics. Herr Bolling was official spokesman for the last SPD chancellor, Helmut Schmidt, and then head of the West German mission to East Germany. He emphasizes that Herr Rau is a splendid prime minister of North Rhine-Westphalia, the job he at present holds. But this is a tactic to reinforce what Herr Bolling really wants to say, which is that Herr Rau would not be much good at the big stuff - the grand international subjects among which Herr Schmidt, and by implication, Herr Bolling, were at home.

This is being interpreted as a considerable blow to Herr Rau,

partly because it is broadly true.

The interesting question is does it matter? Herr Schmidt appeared to be internationally important. But at home he achieved the lethal feat, for a West German chancellor, of presiding over rising inflation and unemployment. That was one of the reasons for the desertion of his coalition partners, the Free Democrats (FDP), in 1982 in favour of the internationally unglamorous Helmut Kohl, who has taken care to preside over only one of those sets of rising statistics (unemployment).

Herr Rau's difficulties, and the reasons that he at present looks unlikely to become chancellor in January, have nothing to do with an alleged lack of grasp of grand theory. Prices are actually falling. Unemployment is high by West

one of piety rather than Islamic respect.

Harred of the existing regime, such as existed in Iran under the Shah, or indeed in Egypt under Sadat, which might polarize opposition, Mubarak is regarded with contempt rather than intense dislike. This is one reason why the Egyptian oligarchy, and Egypt's American backers, currently see him as the best available option.

How the future develops will hinge to a great extent on the economy. Unless the recent revival in oil prices is sustained, the situation may become more vulnerable to Islamic exploitation. In any case, half a million fewer Egyptians will find work this year than last in the rich Arab oil nations, adding to the pool of discontented Egyptians and increasing the possibility of riots.

Even so, the most likely reaction in the short term to prolonged disturbance would be an army takeover. A new military regime would find it prudent to pay greater obeisance to Islam than the present heirs of Nasser and Sadat, but for the moment the basic common sense of the Egyptians suggests that Islamic extremists will be excluded from real power.

Kate Finch

Why Mubarak is safe from a coup

Is the mildly authoritarian regime of President Mubarak of Egypt about to be swept away by an Islamic revolution? Listening to Cairo intellectuals (and to many western commentators) one might think this perennial American nightmare is about to come to pass.

On the face of it, they have a point. It is undeniable that Mubarak is seen at all levels of Egyptian society as a bumbling idiot and that lack of direction at the top has given a feeling of vacuum to Egyptian politics.

It is also true that the Islamic movement is flourishing, and that a great many ordinary folk, sick of rising prices and difficult living conditions, are voicing the opinion that since Nasser's socialism and the late President Sadat's capitalism have failed, they might as well give God a try.

Amid this general move towards Islam, its more extreme devotees have gained new ground. Fundamentalist Muslims now have greater power in Egypt than before the death of Anwar Sadat, although they are less noticeable on the streets because their beards and robes have given way to civilian "disguise".

The student unions of all the country's universities are now controlled by fundamentalists. So are the ruling bodies of the

doctors' syndicate and the engineers' syndicate, and of the lawyers' syndicate outside Cairo. These are not posts of power, but are very visible.

The fundamentalists' influence is also strong on two of Egypt's three opposition newspapers, *Al-Shaab* and *Al-Ahram*, and they have total control of *Al-Nur*, an offshoot of *Al-Ahram*. In recent weeks *Al-Shaab* and *Al-Ahram* have sent delegations of journalists to Iran, who have filed glowing reports of life in Tehran.

In business, Islam is again making great strides. Egyptians in general refuse to invest in anything other than a Swiss bank, but companies run on Islamic lines, mostly involved in construction and consumer goods - such as Rayyan, Sherif and Al-Hoda al-Masr - have been attracting investors by the thousand. They offer what amounts to 26% interest, although in accordance with Islam's ban on interest it is defined as a share of the profit.

Many believe that these companies fund religious extremism. The Egyptian government has now become sufficiently alarmed to attempt to bring them under

Correction

The article on birth control (Aug 15) was written by Eric McGrath, not Eric McGrath, as stated.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ON THIS DAY

AUGUST 26, 1875

Captain Matthew Webb (1848-1883) swam from Dover to Calais in 21 hr 45 min, covering nearly 40 miles. On July 24, 1883, he was drowned while attempting to swim the rapids and whirlpool at the foot of Niagara Falls. The record time for the Channel crossing (Dover-Gris-Nez) is 7 hr 40 min, set by Penny Dean in July, 1978.

CAPTAIN WEBB

The second attempt of Captain Webb to swim across the Channel has been crowned with success after a display of indomitable courage and extraordinary powers of endurance. At four minutes to 1 o'clock on Tuesday afternoon Captain Webb dived from the steps at the head of the Admiralty Pier, Dover, and at 41 minutes past 10 o'clock yesterday morning he touched the sands on the French coast, about a couple of hundred yards to the west of the pier at Calais, having remained in the water, without even touching a boat on his way, no less than 21 1/2 hours. During the early part of the journey Captain Webb was particularly favoured by the weather. The sea was quite calm, and not a breath of wind could be felt. Consequently, the lugger which accompanied him across the Channel had, for the greater part of the way, to be rowed. Captain Webb was also accompanied by two small rowing boats, in addition to the assistance upon himself, one containing his cousin, Mr. Ward, who supplied him occasionally with refreshments, and one of the referees who had been appointed at Captain Webb's own request to see fair play, and the other to take messages backwards and forwards to the lugger. Nothing occurred particularly worthy of comment about the swim. As the lugger Webb complained of being stung by a jelly fish, and asked for a little brandy. He had previously been supplied with some cod liver oil and hot coffee. The weather was simply perfect, and Captain Webb was swimming with a long clean breast stroke which drove him well through the water, and, owing to the phosphorescent state of the sea, occasionally surrounded him with a sort of halo. At 10.30 he was visited by a steam tug which put off from Dover for the purpose, and which, strange to say, left the man who had ploughed through the waves for over nine hours without even the encouragement of a parting cheer. At 11.45, however, a Dover boat, on its way to Calais, gave cheer after cheer to greet the man who had already done so much, and one of the boats burnt a red light, which cast a giddy glow over the scene and lighted up the face of Captain Webb, so that he was distinctly seen by those on board the mail boat. At 2 o'clock Captain Webb was still swimming bravely on, and Cape Gris-Nez Light seemed close at hand. Unfortunately, the tide now took him further and further away from the shore. Captain Webb at this period gave evident signs of fatigue, and young Baker, well known as a diver, sat with a life line round him by the side of the referee, in case of accident, as it was by many supposed that the long exposure to cold might cause Webb to sink suddenly. It is a pity that Webb, to avoid a moment's warning. This, however, was not the case. He struggled manfully on, and by 9 o'clock was within a mile of the shore, a little to the westward of Calais, and Baker, who is only 16 years of age, ploughed in and kept Webb company and encouraged him to continue. Unfortunately a breeze had sprung up about 7 in the morning. The sea, which hitherto had been like a sheet of glass, was now tossing him about in the midst of crested waves. He was evidently fearfully exhausted. The tide was running strongly away from shore, which was at 9.45 only half a mile distant. Fortunately a boat belonging to the Steam Mail Packet Company put off from Calais and acted as a sort of breakwater to the now utterly exhausted swimmer. The sea ran so high that it even broke over the little boats which had accompanied him throughout his voyage. He persevered, however, and at last touched ground too weak to stand. A couple of men instantly went to his assistance, and he was able to walk slowly ashore, and on the departure of the aid day men, Captain Webb was left comfortably asleep, a medical man watching by his side and reporting him as doing well.

From a leading article on the same day: "The interest of Captain Webb's achievement centres in its unique character as an example of human skill, strength, and endurance. It is quite certain that nothing like this feat has ever been accomplished before, and the fact is worth remembering, when we have so much talk about the degeneracy of the race and the depreciation of the manly type under the enervating influences of modern civilization..."

From Mrs Ellen Hocking: "In 1940 we were given a 'Volcano' kettle, which we were told, would boil 2 1/2 pints of water on one copy of The Times. We were in East Africa then, so never had the chance to try this out, as the arrival edition of The Times did not provide enough heat and we got used to using twigs etc."

Now we are on our third 'Volcano' kettle and yesterday, because our garden twigs were too damp, we successfully boiled the 2 1/2 pints of water with one copy of The Times. Yours faithfully, ELLEN HOCKING, Frewatha, Polwheveral, Constantine, Falmouth, Cornwall, August 20.

MORE THAN A MOTORWAY

The outer London orbital road was conceived as a decongestant. Through traffic, especially heavy goods vehicles, would be filtered round the conurbation relatively painlessly. London roads would be spared. At the expense of huge landscaping works for the M25, the obtrusiveness of the motorway itself would be minimised.

The planners of this all-too-successful road were Panglossian. They underestimated traffic volumes, and especially the extent to which the existence of the road would generate new traffic, much of it for journeys within the conurbation.

Cynics might wonder if the obvious break in the girder round London, the Dartford Tunnel under the Thames, was left deliberately as a bottleneck in order to deter traffic by queuing. Such far sightedness would be out of character. The planners of the M25 (under which, description fall the members of at least two Cabinets of opposite political philosophy and a generation of engineers and consultants) refused to make preparation for the road's premier effect. They treated the M25 as a mere road instead of also as a generator of economic development and

housing demand in a tract of land that is already under heavy pressure and where development is by official edict under "severe restraint".

To the motorist user of the M25, any decision to remedy congestion on the road will be welcome. The decision to upgrade the south-eastern section of the North Circular Road and to build a new bridge to carry it over the Thames looks sensible as a way of reducing pressure on the motorway. It is not without irony, however, that an inner-orbital road is now being used to relieve an outer-orbital road the justification for which originally was to obviate the need for the inner orbital to be upgraded.

The Department of Transport has announced that a heavily over-used section of the motorway around the M3 interchange is to be widened, and has promised a watching brief over other sections of road, with a view to increasing their capacity if necessary. The Department, a frequent butt of criticism, has begun to prove itself an able manager of road refurbishment programmes and there is every good reason to accept Mr Peter Bottomley's assurances that the flow of vehicles on the road will be improved "within months".

Mr Bottomley, like Mrs Linda Chalker before him, is finding the Department of Transport a kind home for a Minister with no fixed views about the expenditure of public money.

Widening the M25 between junctions 10 and 13 is simple. It does not substitute for the further choices which the motorway's existence will present to this Government and its successors. Among these is the balance to be struck in the motorway's use between "local" traffic and long distance users. Congestion on the motorway may require a reduction in the number of access points. The movement of vehicles within the London conurbation itself is part of the equation, inseparable from decisions about the public transport network and its subsidies. Perhaps most pressing of all is the dawning recognition that the motorway is attracting development, from warehouses to new houses, and provision will have to be made right around the green belt.

Perhaps the examiner who set the question might like to compare the results of widening with those of a "disadvantage" listed in that the new design "might require fewer people to assemble the car". Are we to understand that an advantage would have been marked wrong? If the effect of GCSE-style social awareness is to inculcate such Luddite attitudes in our future technologists there will soon be no British car industry to employ them, however finely their environmental sensitivities may have been honed.

Expanding the M25's capacity is easy. Expanding the capacity of the south east of England to grow without reducing the amenity and "quality of life" of the inhabitants of the shires around the capital is impossible.

A HELPING HAND FOR SUDAN

Last week's decision by the Sudanese government to break off talks with the rebel Sudanese People's Liberation Army has dashed whatever hope remained of a swift conclusion to the civil war in the south. As a result, the unfortunate inhabitants of southern Sudan are likely to bear the full force of the present famine; there is a risk of further instability, given that the present government came to power last May on a pledge to end the civil war, and any chance of economic recovery has been postponed indefinitely.

The logical course for the Sudanese government now would be to resume negotiations as soon as possible. But quite apart from the usual Sudanese preference for doing nothing, the Prime Minister, Sadeq al-Mahdi, is swayed by concern for his own position in Khartoum where feeling is running strongly against the rebels.

Not only was public opinion in the capital outraged by the shooting down of the civilian airliner, but the outstanding demand of the rebels for the repeal of Islamic Sharia law cannot be granted without

creating intolerable pressure in the north. Though weak in the country as a whole, the Muslim Brothers have the ability to paralyse the capital with riots.

Eventually, some form of compromise will have to be reached which involves granting a greater share of power for southerners in the central government. The north needs the resources of the south, and the south, riven with tribal rivalries, could not survive on its own. But can the traditional northern feelings of contempt for the southerners be modified?

While there is little to help solve such fundamental problems, the immediate course of events is already being influenced by outside interests. It is to the advantage of both the Russians and the Ethiopians, who provide bases and support for the SPLA, that pro-Western Sudan should be destabilised. It was perhaps to lessen these pressures that Sadeq al-Mahdi recently visited Moscow, but it is hard to see an end to the war along that route.

Colonel Gadhafi has also entered the scene. At the

invitation of the Sudanese government, he has provided a small amount of military assistance to the government. But Colonel Gadhafi is a dubious helpmeet. He has always had ambitions to extend his empire to the Red Sea and once he has a foot in the door, he may be reluctant to remove it.

It is clearly in the interests of the West that the new Sudanese government should strengthen its fragile pro-Western democracy and achieve stability. But Sadeq al-Mahdi cannot afford to be tarred with the overtly pro-Western brush of his predecessor, nor can he be seen to accept the amount of military aid which would suggest client status. However, he does need—and would doubtless accept—economic aid and a discreet increase in the military assistance he now receives.

Britain already provides military training on a modest scale, but more help along these lines is needed, particularly in counter-insurgency measures. Such assistance will not defeat the rebels in itself, but it may strengthen the Sudanese government's hand in forging what must, in the end, be a negotiated solution.

LITHUANIA REMEMBERED

Moscow intends to impress the world with an image of religious toleration by allowing celebrations to mark the millennium of Russian Orthodoxy in 1988. But there is an earlier anniversary which the Soviet authorities are less willing to commemorate: the 600th anniversary of the coming of Christianity to Lithuania which falls next year.

Already there is pressure from priests and people in this staunchly Catholic state to invite Pope John Paul II to attend the celebrations. Recently 127 priests petitioned their bishops to start the delicate diplomacy necessary for such a visit. And the Pope himself has expressed his interest in a visit. Writing last May to Bishop Julijonas Steponavicius (who is rumoured to have been appointed cardinal in pectore seven years ago), the Pope promised to be with the Lithuanians during their celebrations, "in prayer and in all other possible ways". But the atheist authorities in Lithuania have made it known that a papal visit is unlikely. The strength of religious feeling in this republic on Poland's eastern border is

evident: the many clandestine documents which circulate there—and eventually reach the West—describe mass demonstrations in defence of persecuted priests and patriots. The 70th issue of the underground *Chronicle of the Lithuanian Catholic Church* describes the funeral of Father Juozas Zdebskis, who died last February in a car accident under suspicious circumstances and reminds its readers of other times when priests have been murdered without the perpetrators being brought to justice.

The briefly independent state of Lithuania was incorporated into the Soviet Union in 1940, and here, as in Poland, the blend of religious and nationalist feelings is a potentially explosive mix. A papal visit would be a calculated risk on the part of the Soviet authorities. This risk would be all the greater following the Chernobyl disaster, which caused widespread protest in Lithuania against the new Ignalina nuclear power station near Vilnius which is due to come on stream later this year.

The Baltic states have not been entirely forgotten by

Western countries, which have refused to recognize the legality of Soviet rule there. Prisoners of conscience such as Father Tamkevicius, now serving a six-year sentence in a labour camp, are supported by human rights groups; the poet Gintautas Ilesmantas was named an honorary member of the American Centre of the International Pen Club when serving a six-year term in strict regime camps. And Baltic empires have designated August 23 a "Black Ribbon Day" to commemorate the anniversary of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact in 1939 which opened the door to the Soviet occupation of the Baltic states. But the scale of protest hardly compares with that raised, for example, over apartheid in South Africa.

A papal visit to Vilnius next year would certainly be greeted with a massive public demonstration of loyalty to a faith older than communism. But whether or not a Papal visit materializes—and the scales must be tipped against it—the Lithuanians and their neighbours deserve to be remembered by the rest of the world, and not just in their anniversary year.

Perhaps a cathedral/abbey pass, similar to National Trust membership, would encourage visits to churches and spread the visitors around to some of the lesser known yet inspiring cathedrals. The tourist who is a sincere cathedral "buff", when confronted with paying an entrance fee, will probably choose in favour of touring Westminster Abbey and forgo buying the extra souvenir while the devout souvenir hunter will probably choose in favour of a free stroll through St James's Park and leave the abbey less crowded. Yours truly, JANE T. SCHEEVEL, Kingshill House, Berry Lane, Chorleywood, Hertfordshire.

Not much ado

From Miss J. C. May: "I had the world's a stage, where all the players? I am a paid-up, card-carrying member of the Royal Shakespeare Company's Barbican mailing list, which is grandly known as an 'C London Associate'. It has a thin summer, with only two issues. The Board's works currently turned out of a total of 18 productions on offer."

Paying in cathedrals

From Mrs R. W. Scheevel: "Sir, Charging admission to religious and historical places of worship (leading article, August 18) should be considered a fact of life rather than an act of mercenary effrontery."

Eye to the future in education

From Dr Christopher Cullen: "Sir, Science teachers have been assured that the new GCSE syllabuses will lead to a greater awareness of the social, economic, environmental and other implications of their subjects. I have just received a specimen paper for GCSE electronics from the Midland Examining Group, in which candidates are asked to list the advantages and disadvantages of using microprocessors in the control systems of cars."

In the accompanying "Guidelines for marking" the first "disadvantage" listed is that the new design "might require fewer people to assemble the car".

Are we to understand that an answer which listed this as an advantage would have been marked wrong? If the effect of GCSE-style social awareness is to inculcate such Luddite attitudes in our future technologists there will soon be no British car industry to employ them, however finely their environmental sensitivities may have been honed.

Perhaps the examiner who set the question might like to compare the results of widening with those of a "disadvantage" listed in that the new design "might require fewer people to assemble the car". Are we to understand that an answer which listed this as an advantage would have been marked wrong?

Expanding the M25's capacity is easy. Expanding the capacity of the south east of England to grow without reducing the amenity and "quality of life" of the inhabitants of the shires around the capital is impossible.

What one acquires from the study of history, apart from pure interest (in the other sense), is an

appreciation of the kinds of perspective in which one must look at any society. I should have thought that that could be equally well acquired from the study of any period of history. Yours faithfully, HENRY MAYR-HARTING, St Peter's College, Oxford, August 19.

From Mr John Hawes: "Sir, Your Education Correspondent's report (August 12) on the expected enquiry into the ways schools teach English had a particular relevance for me when read here in France. My special interest is in the effect of a lack of knowledge of English grammar on the study of foreign languages."

Both my elder children have studied modern languages for A level. As a modern-language graduate, working in industry and using my languages regularly, I have been able to help them with their work. Not surprisingly, the intricacy of French grammar was one problem area for them but, before we could tackle that problem, I had to initiate them in the basics of English grammar; they had practically no knowledge of it at all.

Industry finds it extremely difficult to recruit people with a good knowledge of one or more European languages. I suggest that by not teaching English grammar in their schools, we are contributing to this scarcity by making the study of foreign languages harder and therefore less attractive. Grammar is the framework of language and would not a little knowledge of it—say taught in the first year of secondary schooling—help the power of written and spoken communication which are so important for the young, at every level of attainment, when competing for a first job? Yours faithfully, J. M. HAWES, Raguenès-plate, 29139 Nèvez, Bretagne, France, August 15.

Academic standards

From Professor P. A. Reynolds: "Sir, Your Education Correspondent has either read with only half an eye the report on academic standards in universities on which she writes (August 20) or has decided deliberately to ignore a major problem to which the report refers."

It is not possible to compare an apple with a lamb chop except in terms of individual preference. It is possible to compare an apple with another apple by identifying a number of standards—or measures—such as sweetness, crispness, juiciness, by which it can be generally agreed that this apple is better than that one. It would, of course, be possible to "standardize" defence programmes that they could be compared in the same way as two apples. This would require, in the words of the report, "an explicit and exclusive determination of the purposes of higher education and a universally applied blueprint of entry criteria, of teaching and assessment processes, and of classification procedures."

It has long been thought—perhaps mistakenly—that one of the great strengths of the British university system was its ability to offer a variety of degree programmes, structured in different subjects, using different methodologies, taught and assessed by different methods.

If this variety is not to be lost it is not possible to lay down "what standards should be reached by students who are awarded a first-class degree or an upper second, and in relation to what body of knowledge" (in your Correspondent's words).

The above statements are, of course, too stark, as the report recognizes. The question is how far and in what ways we should standardize (thus reducing variety) in order to give comparisons greater validity. On this opinions will differ. It is likely that the more advanced the education the less far should standardization go. But the problem is a real one and it does not help simply to ignore it. Yours faithfully, PHILIP A. REYNOLDS, Laitice Cottage, Borwick, Carnforth, Lancashire, strips, leading into deep pits.

From Mrs Angus Mitchell: "Sir, You reported on August 5 that locust swarms were building up in Africa. In his reminiscences my grandfather, Major-General R. E. Kenyon, RE, wrote: 'The hardest physical work I have ever had was destroying locusts in Cyprus. In 1883 canvas screens were erected at right angles to the line of march of hopping locusts. Behind the top of each screen was a broad strip of oilcloth, kept slippery by men with sponges full of oil. At intervals were similar vertical oily

Locusts in Africa

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St John's Lodge

From the President of the Commonwealth Association of Architects: "Sir, Lord Perth's timely observations (feature, August 6) on the St John's Lodge, Regent's Park fiasco and the consequent loss to London of the great Fred Koch collection leads one to wonder, yet again, why we never learn from our nearest neighbours in France. The new Picasso Museum in Paris is housed in a previously neglected 17th-century masterpiece known as the Hôtel Salé on the rue de Thorigny, which is older and of far greater architectural distinction than the dreary St John's Lodge. With characteristic flair, its architect, Roland Simounet, has transformed the interior to create a thoroughly 20th-century context for the Picasso collection and done it in an authoritative and imaginative way which counter-balances perfectly the old and the new."

There is no sign of hesitant, historically pedantic procrastination. As a result, Paris now deservedly possesses a superb setting for an incomparable collection, giving back to the Marais quarter a revitalised building that is a joy, both visually and organisationally, to visit. How sad that such an opportunity has been unnecessarily lost to London, and for reasons that do not bear scrutiny. Yours faithfully, JOHN WELLS-THORPE, President, Commonwealth Association of Architects, 14 Richmond Place, Brighton, Sussex, August 14.

Totally improper

From Mr Stuart I. Alexander: "Sir, When I was a carpenter in New Zealand we normally worked to the nearest eighth of an inch, and used 'full' and 'bare' to describe sixteenths. One and three sixteenths—a mouthful to say, let alone bawl across a windy building site—would therefore be expressed either as 'one and an eighth full' or as 'one and a quarter bare'. I found this useful, and still measure such measurements to myself as I work on jobs in my flat. Are people who ask for a full fraction therefore actually seeking a little more? Yours faithfully, STUART I. ALEXANDER, 102 The Drive Mansions, Fulham Road, SW6, August 15."

For the record

From Mr Mark Stone: "Sir, This morning I went to collect my car, which had been parked after a crash. As I was comprehensively insured and in no way responsible for the crash I assumed all I had to do was sign for the car and drive off. No! I had to pay a £25 surcharge. I took the receipt to my insurance broker, who tells me he will send this to my insurance company (who paid for the car to be repaired) and it will send me a cheque for £25. He will then send me a cheque for £25. Yours etc, MARK STONE, 2 Long Cottage, Church Street, Leatherhead, Surrey, August 6."

Way ahead for water

From Councillor Nadia Conway: "Sir, I hope your readers won't be misled by the article by Alex Henney, 'The way ahead for water' (August 19), into believing that consumer consultative committees are merely mouthpieces for the water companies. I am a member of such a committee, appointed by my local borough—other members being appointed by various interest groups—and I do not think any of us see our job as maintaining a front for the water authorities. On the contrary, we scrutinize its activities closely and act as intermediaries for any complaints or queries from consumers. All the functions that Mr Henney would require of an independent commission are covered by existing consumer consultative committees. Even if the committees were to be given statutory powers of an independent commission their influence would still be limited to the enthusiasm and commitment of their members. The formation of statutory bodies is not a short cut to a consumers' nirvana and I frankly doubt that consumers would be better served under a different system. Yours truly, NADIA CONWAY, London Borough of Enfield, Members' Room, Civic Centre, Silver Street, Enfield, Middlesex, August 20."

Heat of the moment

From Mrs Ellen Hocking: "Sir, In 1940 we were given a 'Volcano' kettle, which we were told, would boil 2 1/2 pints of water on one copy of The Times. We were in East Africa then, so never had the chance to try this out, as the arrival edition of The Times did not provide enough heat and we got used to using twigs etc."

Heat of the moment

Now we are on our third 'Volcano' kettle and yesterday, because our garden twigs were too damp, we successfully boiled the 2 1/2 pints of water with one copy of The Times. Yours faithfully, ELLEN HOCKING, Frewatha, Polwheveral, Constantine, Falmouth, Cornwall, August 20."

THE ARTS

**Television
Tongues
of fame**

It has always been a mystery to me why the most successful radio shows in both America and Britain were once ventriloquist's acts. Evidently, everyone took it on trust that the vast of many voices were playing it straight when they were playing with forked tongues.

John Peel (Channel 4), Alan's affectionate look at a history of ventriloquism, at first showed why no one in the audience doubted that Edgar Bergen, America's leading radio "vent", was doing all the voices.

His lips moved - at least they did in the clip they showed of him with the then unknown Lurch. But post-ally enticed viewers to look at her kisser and not his. *Paul Brough*, Britain's radio star who helped educate Archie, popped up live with a nice story about his ventriloquist father making farm animals speak to his children. The greatest performer on show, though, Spain's Señor Venecia, needed neither dumb animal, dumb blonde nor even a dummy. He let his hand do the talking.

When Brough once reluctantly removed his dummy's head for the royal children, *George VI* remarked that he was the only fellow he ever had beheaded. At the beginning of the fascinating, slickly condescending American documentary, *Will There Always Be An England?* (Channel 4) one landed gem revealed that one of his ancestors was the last person to be executed on Tower Hill. By the end of this tale of two Englands, one of southern comfort around Winchester, the other of northern medicine in Liverpool and Newcastle, you were almost left wondering whether, if something was not done soon about unemployment, he risked being next for the chop.

Simplistic social counterpointing made for some easy targets, but this foreign view of a divided nation also offered some poignant home truths as well as showing that Cypriot cake-makers have more industrial enterprise than smug Wykehamist schoolboys. At least the boys talked eagerly of their future highly-paid non-productive jobs. When I was one of them we were more likely to discuss the meaning of Sgt Pepper's holes in Blackburn, Lancashire - and not out of concern for northern industrial decay.

Andrew Hislop

**Rock
Killing Joke
Reading Festival**

It was a dismal day for the hard core of devotees who had loughed it out through intermittent downpours of rain, flashes of lightning and prolonged squalls of indifferent music. Although in meteorological terms Killing Joke could be described as one of those dark depressions travelling across Europe that so often give Michael Fish cause for concern, their brutal, morbid music has brought them steadily increasing acclaim since their formation in London in the 1979 morning of quags with first rain.

As they embarked on a slipped one-hour set, the rain swept down with renewed intensity, further dampening the chilled crowd's spirits. The sinister-looking blond-haired Gordie manoeuvred his guitar in stooping, languid gestures but his sound was indistinct, particularly during "Kings and Queens". Jaz Coleman, with two thick black stripes painted down his cheeks, lending a brooding thundercloud menace to his features, sang with demagogic fervour, his arms raised to the darkness above during "Multitudes", while Paul Ferguson wove intriguing tom-tom patterns in somewhat wavering tempi behind Paul Raven's heavy, lolling bass lines.

But, despite a series of spectacular pyrotechnic effects that lit up the blood-red backdrop and lavish red drapes with grand bursts of light during "Wardance", Killing Joke were out of their depth as the headlining act in such adverse conditions. Although streets ahead of the mediocre groups that had preceded them, they did not have either the depth of material or the skills of projection needed to muster much response, and Coleman's authentic chants and victory salutes tended to turn into the irrelevant ranting of a general addressing a defeated and demoralized army.

There was much of musical merit in Gordie's emotive short-shifts during "Adornations", but the mood of the "vent" was better summed up by the sight of a full plastic bottle, buried from the crowd, mashing square on to his guitar at the end of "Love Like Blood". They had more dignity than to return for an encore.

David Sinclair

**Galleries: John Russell Taylor surveys the summer shows in Paris
Swinging back into the Sixties**

So how do we picture the Sixties? Do we in fact picture the Sixties clearly at all, or are we still too close to have succeeded in fusing a lot of scattered ideas satisfactorily into a coherent - let alone a reasonably accurate - whole? Anyway, it must be high time we put our notions on the subject in order: why, already one musical, the revival of *Charly Girl*, has opened in London with a full assumption of Sixties nostalgia in its audience, and a consequent assumption that they will recognize what they are seeing. And now the Fondation Cartier, a recent addition to Paris's cultural resources (it is in fact in Jouy-en-Josas, a little way out in the Ile-de-France), is weighing in with an enormous show, accompanied by an even more enormous book-catalogue, which is intended to put an end to any residual vagueness on the subject. It is called, unequivocally, *Les Années 60: La Décade triomphante*, and runs until September 30.

Perhaps we do not quite see the Sixties as "triumphant." What do we think of? The deaths of Kennedy and Marilyn Monroe; the arrival of the Beatles; Carnaby Street, Swinging London, miniskirts and Nehru jackets; Gagarin in space; flower-power and the May 1968 upsets in Paris; drugs and sexual permissiveness... Not, perhaps, a particularly bad period, on balance, but surely a period of some uncertainty, with things very much in a state of flux? The image presented at the Fondation Cartier is much simpler than that. The layout of the place, with a "village" of small exhibition areas, a large "bunker" which was apparently the headquarters of the Luftwaffe during the Occupation, and extensive grounds ready to be littered at will with large sculptures or, in this case, cars of the period, seems to lead somehow to snap judgement and shorthand evocation rather

than any in-depth examination.

Also, the point of view is necessarily French, and this means that though the major events in the great world detail seems, for the time it is meant to represent, curiously old-fashioned. French pop music (prominently featured, of course) remained resolutely Fiftyfifty almost all through the decade; and you would imagine that flower-power and such had never existed at all, presumably because the hippy way of life did not hit France until the Seventies, and then not in any form which would have rung bells in San Francisco. On the other hand, the section devoted to painting and sculpture does admirably remind us that Abstract Expressionism did not disappear overnight and that there were many strains besides the dominant ones of hard-edged, garish-coloured abstraction and media-obsessed Pop Art.

If we leave Jouy-en-Josas little clearer what we think of the Sixties than when we arrived, there are, as it happens, quite a number of other shows in Paris at the moment which throw additional sidelights on the question. The show at the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris until September 7, 1960, *Les Nouveaux Réalistes*, is about a very small and precise group who called themselves that, or were so called by Pierre Restany, who virtually invented the movement.

They were realists not in terms of an illusionist approach to the depiction of reality in art, but because they used the actual matter of reality in their art, carefully preserving ready-made abstracts from the progressive and uneven stripping of posters from billboards, or squashing up waste metal or plastic into compressed cubes pregnant, possibly, with significance about the agonies and ecstasies of the consumer society.

Some of the names are still familiar: Christo, Yves Klein, Tinguely and Niki de Saint-Phalle went on to bigger and better, or at any rate more distinctive, things. But it is unlikely that names like Rotella (the best of the tattered-poster conservers) or Hains or Dufrenoy or Deschamps mean much to anyone today. Nor, truth to tell, does this show present any very convincing evidence that they should.

The Sixties also bulk large in the Centre Pompidou's major summer show, *Qu'est-ce Que La Sculpture moderne?* (until October 13). This rapidly disclaims any intention of being a panorama or a comprehensive survey (though the organizers do incidentally remark how odd it is that there has been no such show devoted to 20th-century sculpture in Paris since the Second World War); its intention is rather to raise the deeper and more impalpable question of what exactly we mean by modernity in the arts, and what, specifically, makes certain sculptures of this century seem modern while others, closely contemporary, do not. In the event, one could be forgiven for regarding the show as the long-needed survey; the didactic purpose is used primarily as an excuse for getting together a lot of very famous sculptures, and leaving us to ask our own questions and reach (hopefully) our own answers. But at least the layout is helpfully suggestive: go down one side and you encounter sculptures inspired by abstract notions, of form or ideology, while down the other side you encounter biological and organic forms, based on a philosophy of nature and a respect for myth.

Or so they say. Naturally there are some strictly geometric, which belong clearly in the first grouping, and some soft and amorphous, which fit equally well into the second. But there are many more

that can be fitted into either only with a shoehorn, if that. It probably is as reasonable a formulation as any to say the sculpture properly called "modern" is not concerned, like 19th-century sculpture, with models in the world one can see, but with invisible models from the realm of the mind. Even so, are social-realists like Gutfreund, or grotesque realists like Raymond Mason, or photorealists like Duane Hanson, all to be dismissed as irrelevant to the century in which they have been working?

In this summer season, as one might expect, the effects of the Sixties on that most notoriously Parisian of the arts, the art of *haute couture*, are certainly not to be left out. The big show at the new Musée des Arts de la Mode in the Pavillon de Marsan is devoted to Yves Saint Laurent (until October 26), and it is complemented by a show at the Musée des Arts Décoratifs on Yves Saint Laurent et le théâtre (until September 7).

Elementary mathematics indicates that the key period in the making of Saint Laurent's reputation must have been the Sixties, and it is amazing to notice how much more distinctive and instantly recognizable the Sixties clothes are than those of any subsequent period. It is not just the well-over-the-knee hemlines, but the whole wildly inventive approach, the sometimes glaring colours, the extreme eclecticism in the use of primitive and peasant motifs as well as highly sophisticated evocations of modern art movements - everything excites and dazzles. And, wonder of wonders, the clothes again begin to look outrageously elegant, rather than just grotesque or campy or, worst of all, faintly dowdy. The reconsideration of the Sixties to which Paris invites us does not come a minute before time.



Leaving us to ask our own questions: Matisse's 1909 bronze *La Serpentine* from *Qu'est-ce Que La Sculpture moderne?*

Steve Harley (right), rock-singer turned actor, opens in the title-role of Marlowe at the King's Head tonight; interview by David Sinclair



An urge to relieve success

In keeping with his chequered singing career as either rock's tortured genius or its most arrogant charlatan, depending on your viewpoint, Steve Harley is now embarking on a project as an actor in a musical production of *Marlowe* which opens at the King's Head tonight and could turn out to be a work of inspiration or a complete shambles.

During the Seventies, when Harley was releasing hit records like "Judy Teen", "Mr Soft" and the million-selling "Make Me Smile (Come Up and See Me)", he was engaged in bitter running battles with the music Press, while his band Cockney Rebel regularly fell apart at the seams with much residual acrimony directed at the limelight-loving Harley. "I was an anti-social rat, by reputation anyway", Harley now admits. "But when you're a perfectionist you can't be anti-social. It's difficult to work with or for, but the truth is they're not up to it. That's the rub."

Marlowe is the story of the playwright Christopher Marlowe, who died in a tavern brawl at the age of 29. Prior to playing the same part in an off-Broadway production in 1982, Harley had had no previous acting experience, but nevertheless regards himself as uniquely qualified to take on the part. For one thing, he speaks with passionate enthusiasm of his long-standing admiration for Marlowe and his work. "He's always been a hero of mine. He was an iconoclast, rebellious, he drank, he smoked dope, he was slightly schizophrenic, very sexual and he was a genius. You know how you just identify with some people in history."

Harley's selection as the man to play the role seems to have been subject to similarly inspirational forces. The author, Leo Rosi, a 65-year-old New York theatre "angel" turned playwright, who had never been to a rock concert in his life, was persuaded by Jimmy Horowitz, who wrote the music and who has worked as an arranger for Harley in the past, to go and see Harley performing in concert at Hammersmith Odeon. "They called me later the same night and asked me to play Christopher Marlowe. I said, modestly, 'You'd like me to audition?' And they said 'No. We've seen you. As you are in the way we see our Marlowe.' I'm not bragging. I just naturally came across as the sort of guy they wanted to be Marlowe."

That was in 1982 and presumably Harley vindicated himself sufficiently in the New York show to warrant being cast in the new production at the King's Head. Sitting in the

crowded bar during a lunch-break from rehearsals, he speaks with verbose, melodramatic flourishes, occasionally bursting forth with illustrative declamations from the work of Marlowe or Shakespeare (whom he habitually refers to as "Shakes"). The regulars in the bar, no doubt used to the comings and goings of theatre folk, pay no attention.

Born in Lewisham in 1951, the son of a professional footballer, Harley suffered from polio as a child and walked on crutches "until I was 16", which may explain such an urgent need to stick up for himself and succeed no matter what. He did three years as an apprentice journalist before taking up with Cockney Rebel. The passage of time since his fall from grace in the rock world has not dulled his ambition, even marginally. He has a new record contract and is working on a forthcoming album. "I do want success again, and I will get it", he says, by the intensity of Tamburlaine contemplating his rightful ascension to a position of imperial power. "There is no law that says 'Steve Harley has been there and that's the end of his turn'. I shall return, as General MacWhatsname said."

Meanwhile, he is bolstering his acting technique by taking lessons at the Guildhall School of Drama, and studying for an English A level. "I'm going for an A", he says, adding for good measure: "I want to play Edmund in *Lear* with the Royal Shakespeare Company."

Earlier this year, following his top-10 recording success, with Sarah Brightman, of *Phantom of the Opera*, Harley auditioned before Hal Prince for the part of the Phantom in the forthcoming Andrew Lloyd Webber musical. "They offered me the part, the contract was made and for a couple of months I was set to do it", he says. The fact that the job has since gone to Michael Crawford is something which Harley describes as "a matter for mild debate" between him and the company, but he insists that they parted "on good terms."

At 35, married with two children, Harley has seen both sides of show business success. Has he now learnt how to avoid the pitfalls? He explains by example: "I have an interview to do. I say to myself 'Behave yourself! Steve, don't blab, don't talk too much, don't say things you know in print will look nothing like the way they came out of your body'... Then I forget it. It goes to the wind." He looks momentarily forlorn, a gentler person. "It's the self-destruct button; I just keep hitting it."

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

Theatre: Irving Wardle

**Medea
Old College
Courtyard**

Last year's Edinburgh *Medea* by the Japanese Toho Company is already a legend, and with this sequel another is already in the making. It is the most thrilling production of a Greek tragedy I have seen in any language.

It has found an incommensurate setting in the university's nobly-proportioned Old Courtyard, whose granite neo-classicism matches the stylistic references and sheer magnitude of Yukio Ninagawa. With a mass playing facing his balustraded steps and triple doorways, it combines the qualities of an ancient amphitheatre and a setting for baroque opera. To these, the show also adds western guitar ballads and the full kabuki tradition, demonstrating that with a work as universal as *Medea* theatre can speak an international language.

Being played by an all-male company, this is not a *Medea* for the feminists. It is a ritual event, closer (in western terms) to opera than drama, offering an exercise in the primary human passions. Its marvellously choreographed chorus are ideal spectators, who respond to pity and terror better than we can ourselves. And the whole complex event is built around the two simple actions when *Medea* drives her sword into the forestage and when she draws it out again.

Between these two moments there is a gathering of forces towards a single terrible act. It is partly a process of electrifying contrast: as where chorific lamentations are brutally cut off by the arrival of Creon and

Jason, or where slow marches are interrupted by the frenzied heroine scattering the chorus like dead leaves. It is also achieved musically through the interweaving of the chorus's pentatonic unison and a fateful baroque death-march that reactivates *Medea*'s vengeance. The power is intensified by the fact that it is at moments of climax that it is the most Japanese and the most western conventions coincide.

Even without these surrounding effects, the *Medea* of Mikijiro Hira (last year's *Macbeth*) would have filled the large playing space. The one thing he does not suggest is an abandoned gesture. The tenor voice throbs, snarls and sobs from a heavy, bejewelled costume that gives him a barbaric authority over the rest of the company. Playing the supplicant to Aegeus, kicked down the steps by Creon, Mikijiro remains in control. But it is only after he strips down to a blood-red tunic that he reveals his full tragic status.

Taking leave of the children he lies down and rolls over the floor with them, and then circles the stage bearing the ground in an ecstasy of grief; then, at a cannon-shot and the returning baroque march, he ascends the steps, the sword glittering above his head, vanishing through the doorway as the chorus fly after him with cries of lamentation. It has never seen a more tremendous exit.

But Ninagawa manages to exceed it with the unearthly apparition of *Medea*, high above the top balustrade, enthroned in the dragon-chariot and making a last exit into the night sky. The memory of that departure will hover over Robert Adam's courtyard for ever.

Concerts: Paul Griffiths

**Goehr weekend
Queen's Hall**

Edinburgh at the weekend offered a choice of 20th-century music courteously arranged by Alexander Goehr. In that this provided coherent programmes, excellently performed, one can hardly complain. And in that it brought together for the first time in several years the luminaries of the "Manchester school" - Goehr, Davies and Birtwistle - it had almost historical significance. But it would be a pity if, as seems to be the case this year, the modernist weekend is taken as an excuse for contemporary music to be practically ignored in the rest of the festival.

It also seems a bit negligent of a major festival to offer only two completely new works, both by young and little-known composers. Geoffrey King's *You, Always you I did not hear*, but Philip Cashian's *Moon of the Dawn* certainly earned its place: it is just eight minutes long, filtering Japanese poems, sung by a soprano, into music for string quartet. The idea is an invitation to precariousness, but the music has its moments of tough making, and all through the intention is precisely executed. Cashian also has a nice line in melody.

Carol Smith was the fine singer of this piece, with the Brodsky Quartet, whose two short programmes were intensely alive and exact. This is not a loud-voiced quartet, but

their degree of unanimity is almost uncanny: the second of Stravinsky's Three Pieces, for instance, was keenly presented; as a little kaleidoscope for four players acting as one, and they also gave a fascinating account of Bartók's Third Quartet, more bracingly incisive than barbaric. They were, too, the musical forum within which the Manchester composers met, with Goehr's Third and Davies's First Quartet separated by the serendipitous wandering of Nicholas Cox through Birtwistle's Clarinet Quintet.

The other heroes of the weekend included Richard Berrus, who conducted players from the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and the Scottish Philharmonics. Singers in a programme including Kurtág's *Messager of the Late R.V. Troussard* and Goehr's *Sonata about Jerusalem*. The Kurtág, despite Adrienne Csengery's mastery of expressionist effect, continues to strike me as profoundly cheap, justifying incoherence as an expression of female hysteria; but at least this performance showed how utterly magnificently the accompaniment is conceived, with never a scrap of sound out of place. *Sonata about Jerusalem* is cooler stuff, but Michael Rippon brought funds of expressive warmth to it, and so precise and affirmative a performance needed no stating to make the point about the folly of wishful thinking. Indeed, the lesson was well made that revolutions in thought are going to need a bit more effort.

Opera: Paul Griffiths

**Dido and Aeneas
St Andrew and St George**

Reeling from the Russian productions at the King's Theatre, operatic souls have been comforted at Edinburgh by a fresh, lively and winning production of *Dido and Aeneas* within the elliptical auditorium of one of the city's Georgian churches. The company concerned, Opera Restord, belong to the "authentic" school as far as musical performance is concerned, and it was a pleasure to hear the light, pastoral tones of this opera so naturally delivered by a string quartet with harpsichord and guitar, the instrumental music being beefed up by the addition of dances from Purcell's other stage works of the period. Peter Holman was responsible for the musical direction.

The stage style, though, made no pretensions to recovering the original performance conditions, which would arguably require a cast entirely of schoolgirls. Instead we had professional singers pretending to be ladies and gents of the period, adopting, as ladies and gents of that period so often do on the modern stage, a kind of slow-motion foppery. However, the costumes, by Robin Linklater, were often gorgeous, and the very artificiality of the historicizing (with modern materials for the clothes and with wigs for the

**Music in
London
LS/Salonen
Elizabeth Hall**

The Princesse de Polignac, extraordinary patroness of the arts and particularly of music, is just about the ideal subject for a didactic event like this, which was devised by Michael Rennison and reasonably enough called "An Evening with the Princesse de Polignac".

If one were to take the easy option, one could complete this review simply by listing some of the great figures she helped or otherwise knew: artists, musicians, writers alike. As it was, the effect of having the names of such a diverse array of genius presented side by side, many illustrated by slides, revealed a scale of philanthropy that one never before quite appreciated.

Unfortunately this happening did rather sprawl. It took the form of a reminiscing interview, much in the manner of *Deser Island Discs*, between the veteran singer Doda Conrad, who himself knew the Princesse and who sang in Nadia Boulanger's celebrated Monteverdi recordings, and the Princesse, here played by the actress Barbara Leigh-Hunt. M Conrad, touching though it was to have him with us, is no actor, and delivered his lines haltingly, though Miss Leigh-Hunt coped splendidly with the attendant difficulties as well as those presented by too much hyperbole as well as verbiage in Mr Rennison's script.

The live musical interludes naturally enough consisted of works directly associated with the Princesse. In Fauré's incidental music for *Pelleas et Melisande*, as in Ravel's *Pavane pour une Infante défunte*, the London Sinfonietta under Esa-Pekka Salonen did not play with quite their usual crispness, but for Stravinsky's severely neo-classical Concerto for Piano and Wind, which the composer himself gave in the Princesse's salon, their wisps seemed to have sharpened. Paul Crossley gave an aptly gritty account of the solo part, just about managing to avoid imbuing the slow movement with too much expression.

At length came the grand finale, a resurrection of Barry Smith's production of Falla's *Master Peter's Puppet Show*, another piece dedicated to Polignac. And charming, not to say spectacular, it was too, with some fine playing and some excellent, disembodied singing from Elizabeth Gale (the Boy), Robin Leggett (Master Peter) and Stephen Roberts (Don Quixote).

Stephen Pettitt

MONTPELIER MODERN ART COURSES

Our comprehensive 10-week course on the VISUAL ARTS OF THE 20TH CENTURY covers Painting, Sculpture, Architecture, Film, Design, Photography etc. ENROL NOW FOR SEPTEMBER 1986. Information from the Principal, Mrs Helen Froyling MA (RCA), 4 Montpelier Street, LONDON SW7. Tel: 01-584 0667.

Britain dons its raincoat for a Bank holiday washout

Continued from page 1
 optimistic meteorologist reported: "There is still lots of heavy rain up there waiting to fall."

This time the blame fell upon Hurricane Charley, which began life as a tropical storm, hit North Carolina and then swept onto the Atlantic to be reinvigorated by an involvement with cooler polar air.

Yesterday, Hurricane Charley took the form of an intense depression moving from southern Ireland across the Midlands, bringing heavy rain to all areas except northern Scotland, and hoisting gale warnings throughout the Irish Sea, English Channel and North Sea.

Off the Cornish coast a family of five were rescued by a Royal Navy warship when their yacht began taking in water in stormy seas.

HMS Jersey went to the aid of the French boat Fabulo after picking up a distress call.

The French family, including three children, were transferred to the ship; the yacht's skipper stayed on board to help the St Mary's lifeboat to tow her back to St Ives.

In South Wales and the West Country, Bank holiday Monday afternoon was distinguished by one and a half inches of rain. Many parts of the South-east soaked up at least an inch.

In Ireland, 60 mph winds caused power blackouts in areas near the coast, and parts of Co Waterford and Co Cork were flooded after hours of heavy rain.

Many people, however, did brave the rain and danced to the rhythm of cello music in the streets on the final day of the celebrations.

The police monitored crowd levels using a network of computerized cameras inherited from the Falklands war.

About fifty officers manned the nerve centre of "gold control", which was set up in the gymnasium of Ston Manning School, Charles Street, in the heart of the carnival area.

Their aim was to watch the crowd and send in snatch squads to pick up trouble makers or petty criminals.

Their job was made easier by the rain which began early in the afternoon, although more petty crime was reported over the two days than last year.

83 arrested at scooter rally

Several people were injured and 83 arrested as violent clashes marred the end of the Isle of Wight scooter rally. Thousands of pounds worth of damage was caused after gatecrashers, said to be Hell's Angels, invaded the site near Newport.

A beer marquee was looted and set on fire. A caravan and supply trailers belonging to the caterers were also set ablaze.

It took police officers several hours to quell what they described as a serious disturbance. At one stage, a fire engine called to the rally site was pelted with stones and a fireman was cut by flying glass.

Hampshire police said that most of the people arrested were charged with theft from the marquee; others faced public order charges.

Rain severely affected all the county cricket matches yesterday with play at Bournemouth, Worcester, Cardiff and Hove being washed out without a ball being bowled.

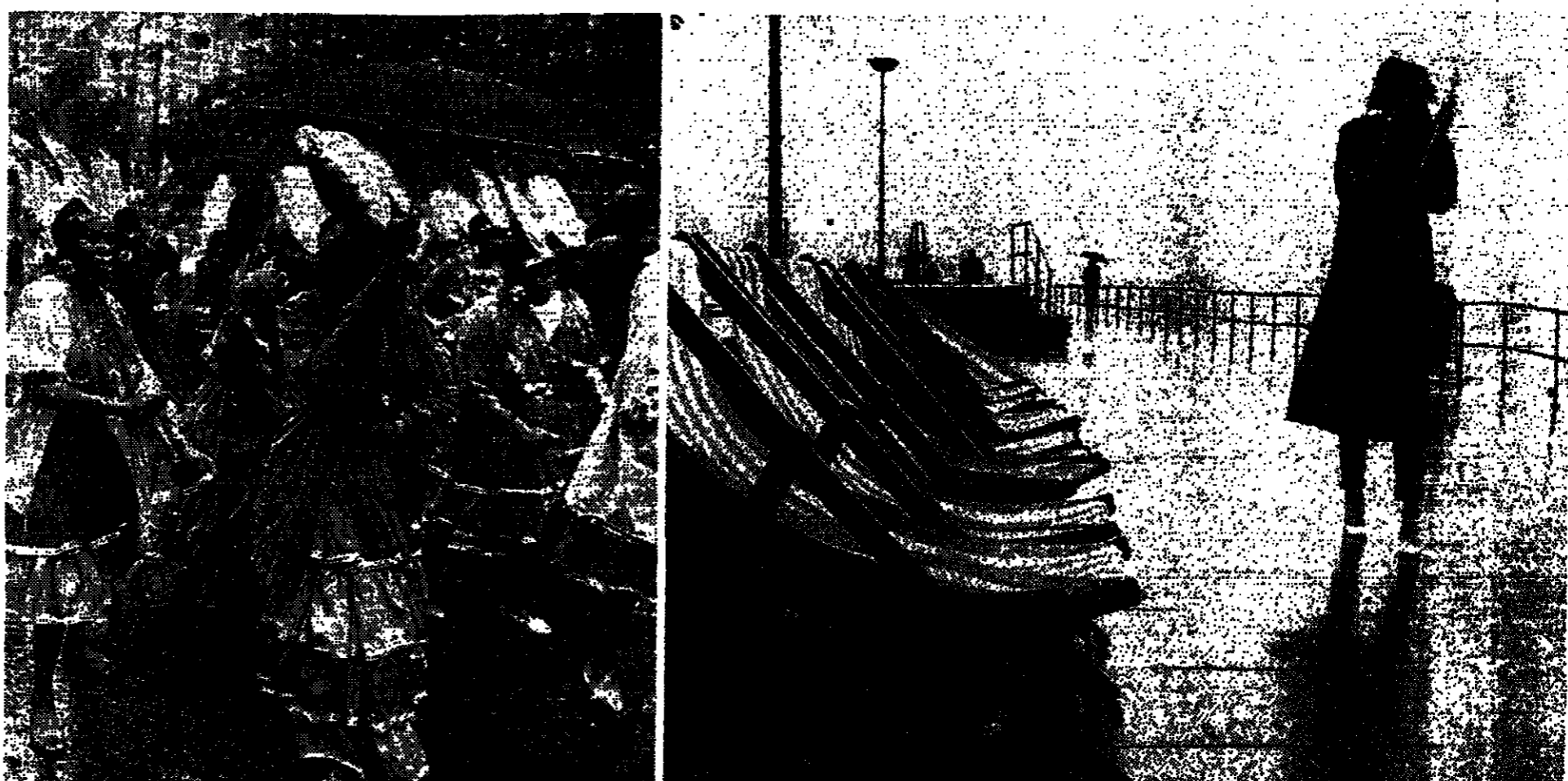
Even the World Formula Two Powerboating Grand Prix at the Royal Victoria Dock, London, was called off because the driving rain made conditions too hazardous. But the Football League and racing programmes continued as normal.

Damp spirits at Notting Hill

In London, where the highest temperature was an unseasonably low 61F, there was a fifth of an inch.

An air and sea search for two men missing after their dinghy sank off the Merseyside coast was abandoned last night. Two survivors had been swept ashore wearing life jackets on Sunday night.

The Notting Hill Carnival in west London was marred by the atrocious weather that reduced the expected three-quarters of a million people to 200,000 for the two days.



The weather failing to dampen spirits at the Notting Hill Carnival in London yesterday (left), although the seafarers at Teignmouth, Devon, which is usually packed with holidaymakers, is left to the elements.



A family protecting themselves from the rain on the Palace Pier, Brighton (left), and Mods returning from the Isle of Wight disembarking from a Sealink ferry in Portsmouth.



THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Princess of Wales visits Dundee; visits Roxburgh House, Royal Victoria Hospital, Jedburgh, St. 10.30; and, as President, Dr. Bernardo's, visits the Dundee Family Support Team, 14 Dundee St., 11.45.

New exhibitions

Silver, jewelry and paintings by Michael Thomson, Tower House, Quay St, Bangor, Northern Ireland; Tues to Sat 11 to 9, Sun 2 to 6 (ends Aug 31).

Exhibitions in progress

Tassie: Portrait of the Scottish Enlightenment (ends Sept 30); Printed Light: the scientific art of William Henry Fox Talbot and D. O. Hill with Robert Adamson, Scottish National Portrait Gallery, Queen St, Edinburgh; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (ends Oct 26).

Glass and Textiles by 40 artists

Old Fire Station Arts Centre, 40 George St, Glasgow; Mon to Fri 10 to 4 (ends Aug 30)

Music

Recital by Alvin Moisey (piano) and David Abbott (flute), Parish Church, Hawkshead, 8. Concert by the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Usher Hall, Edinburgh, 8.

General

Making Samplers: demonstration by Jane Greenoff, Corinium Museum, Park St, Cirencester, 2 to 5.

Steam awards

The Steam Heritage Awards are to be repeated next year, and £20,000 of prize money is on offer. The money will be shared by five winners, a Premier prize of £1,000 (for outstanding technological innovation) and four category winners, each being awarded £500. The objective of Steam Heritage, an organization sponsored by British Coal and the Solid Fuel Advisory Service, and which involves the Transport Trust and leading enthusiasts' organizations, is to preserve the products and promote interest in the achievements of Britain's Industrial Revolution. Entry forms for the 1987 awards, which must be completed and returned by the end of this November, are available from Geoff Ellard, British Coal, Hobart House, Grosvenor Place, London SW1X 7AE.

Orange badges

The Department of Transport has published a discussion paper on the Orange Badge Scheme of parking concessions for disabled and blind people. The scheme would be available to those most in need of parking concessions (500,000 such badges are in circulation). It is thought the scheme is to continue to work a balance must be head between the parking needs of disabled people and traffic considerations of the community as a whole. Copies of the paper are available from the Department of Transport, C10/05, 2 Marsham St, London SW1P 3BB (tel: 01-212 5252).

TV top ten

- National top ten television programmes in the week ending:
- 1 Eastenders (Thurs/Sun) 18.10m
 - 2 Eastenders (Fri/Sat) 17.15m
 - 3 The Thorn Birds (Thurs) 11.50m
 - 4 Dallas 11.20m
 - 5 The Thorn Birds (Wed) 10.20m
 - 6 Nine O'Clock News (Tues) 9.95m
 - 7 The Thorn Birds (Tues) 9.95m
 - 8 Wogan (Mon) 8.55m
 - 9 Nine O'Clock News (Thurs) 8.00m
 - 10 The Train Robbers 6.00m

ITV

- 1 Coronation Street (Mon) 614.72m
- 2 Coronation Street (Wed) 614.20m
- 3 Crossroads (Wed) 611.00m
- 4 The Comedy Show 3.57m
- 5 Return to Eden (Sun) 10.70m
- 6 Magic Moments 110.40m
- 7 Wildlife Showcases 8.48m
- 8 Emmerdale Farm (Tues) 110.35m
- 9 Crossroads (Thurs) 610.25m
- 10 Summerline Special T 9.55m

BBBCs

- 1 The Paul Daniels Show 5.56m
- 2 The Travelling Show 4.52m
- 3 Steam Days 3.55m
- 4 From London to London 3.50m
- 5 The Asphalt Jungle 3.70m
- 6 Mountspring 3.60m
- 7 The Secret of the Loch 3.48m
- 8 The Mind of a Murderer (Mon) 3.15m
- 9 Sunday Grandstand 3.10m
- 10 Janger Rodeo 2.55m

Channel 4

- 1 Brookside (Tues/Sat) 6.45m
- 2 Brookside (Wed/Sat) 6.15m
- 3 International Athletics (Wed) 5.65m
- 4 The Big Hunt 3.50m
- 5 Flight Into Hell (Thurs) 3.75m
- 6 Angels With Dirty Faces 3.60m
- 7 The Secret of the Loch 3.50m
- 8 Flight Into Hell (Wed) 3.15m
- 9 The Big Hunt 3.50m
- 10 Bugle 2.40m

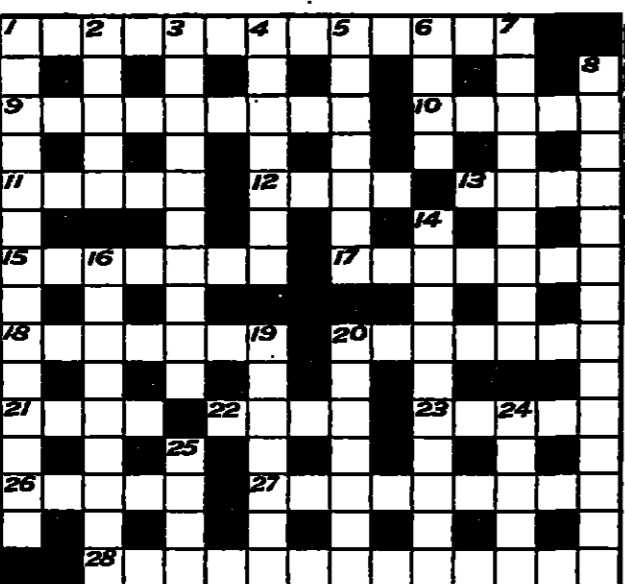
Breakfast television

The average weekly figures for breakfast television (with figures in parentheses showing the maximum number of viewers for at least three minutes):
 BBC1: Breakfast Time Mon to Fri 1.5m (1.5m) Sat 2.5m
 TV-am: Good Morning Britain Mon to Fri 1.5m (1.5m) Sat 2.5m

Bond winners

Winning numbers in the weekly draw for Premium Bond prizes are: £100,000: 3367 1161 (winner lives in Devon); £50,000: 1187 283108 (Sussex); £25,000: 1508 068601 (Hampshire).

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 17,134



- ACROSS
- 1 A lumberjack interrupts the commercials in dispute (2,11).
 - 9 Adam and Eve had to make a fuss (5,4).
 - 11 He wrote music for dance - heartless fellow (5).
 - 12 Take second boat to island (4).
 - 13 Film of Peel (4).
 - 15 With end about due, gave catcalls (7).
 - 17 Regret departure before scholarship (7).
 - 18 Takes cover in certain direction (7).
 - 20 It's unfortunately not hers to take up (7).
 - 21 Sentimental song - I'm all ears (4).
 - 22 Eat noisily, not quietly - what a disgrace (4).
 - 23 Changes in course of duty, we hear (5).
 - 26 I will enter the French city of Flanders (5).
 - 27 Two playful children you met abroad, on the spur of the moment (9).
 - 28 If all agree, S.A.S. members may appear in person (2,2,2,4).
- DOWN
- 1 President and founder of nation and city (7,7).
 - 2 People have a song about it (5).
 - 3 Environmentalists keep off the grass (10).
 - 4 Fleeced with move that's gone (7).
 - 5 German died over Russian division of country (7).
 - 6 Money given to a railway of old (4).
 - 7 Start swimming and cross through (6,3).
 - 8 Having seen enough, can't resolve to do a U-turn (6,4,4).
 - 14 Shares left to no one, written up in a codicil (10).
 - 16 Rail in U.S.A.'s involvement in another country (9).
 - 19 Man in disorder of - that's right (7).
 - 20 Have doubts about weight (7).
 - 24 21 left port to side (5).
 - 25 Elsie, Lacie and Tibbie lived here in style (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 17,133
 ACROSS
 1. HUNTER
 9. ADAM
 11. RAVEL
 12. BOAT
 13. PEEL
 15. DUE
 17. REGRET
 18. DIRECTION
 20. HER
 21. LULLABY
 22. DISGRACE
 23. COURSE
 26. FLANDERS
 27. CHILDREN
 28. S.A.S.
 DOWN
 1. WASHINGTON
 2. SONG
 3. GRASS
 4. GONE
 5. GERMANY
 6. RAILWAY
 7. SWIMMING
 8. U-TURN
 14. SHARES
 16. RAILROAD
 19. MAN
 20. HER
 24. LEFT
 25. ELsie, Lacie and Tibbie

M - way trouble

The Central Office of Information offers seasonal advice on motorway emergency services. If you have a breakdown get on to the hard shoulder, to the left of the carriageway, as soon as possible, but do not pass traffic. Switch on your hazard warning lights and, at night, your side lights as well. Don't open your outside doors or stand at the back, as this might obscure your rear lights. Keep away from the carriageway. Then use the nearest emergency telephone.

The pound

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	11.50	11.40
Austria Sch	22.25	21.15
Belgium F	68.50	62.90
Canada \$	1.145	2.055
Denmark Kr	11.93	11.33
Finland Mkk	7.73	7.23
France F	165	163
Germany DM	3.195	3.015
Greece Dr	209.00	197.00
Hong Kong \$	7.80	7.60
Italy Lira	2,000	2,060
Japan Yen	242.50	228.00
Netherlands Gld	1.85	1.75
Norway Kr	11.35	10.75
Portugal Esc	206.50	194.75
Spain Ptas	166.64	159.36
Swedish Kr	10.71	10.11
Switzerland Fr	2.20	2.13
USA \$	1.555	1.485
Yugoslavia Dnr	640.00	590.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclay Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Retail Price Index: 384.7
 London: The FT index closed up 4.2 on Friday at 1271.2.

Roads

Midlands: M6: Contraflow between junctions 4A and 5 (M42 Sutton Coldfield). Warwickshire: southbound entry at junction 5 closed. M1: Contraflow at junction 20 (Lutterworth): slip road closures. A1: Contraflow N of Newark at Cromwell, and at Carlton - on - Trent.

Wales and West: M4: Lane closures

between junction 37 and 40 (Portsmouth/Talbot) on both carriageways. A4: Traffic restrictions on London Rd, Bath. A31: Bypass work between Ringwood and Wimborne, Dorset.

North: M6: Delays on both carriageways

between junctions 52 and 58 (M65) at Lancaster. M6: Contraflow between junctions 6 and 7 (Thorne/M62). South Yorkshire: slip road closures at junction 6.

London and South: A11: One lane of traffic in each direction

of Camp Hill Rd in Bow Rd. A501: Single - line traffic in City Rd, Islington, between Wharf Rd and Broadway, Islington. A10: Contraflow at junction 11 (Dunstable), Bedfordshire; no entry or exit at this junction.

Anniversaries

Births: Sir Robert Walpole, Earl of Orford, "Prime Minister" 1721-42; Houghton Hall, Norfolk, 1676; Joseph Michel Montgolfier, balloonist, Annomy, France, 1740; Antoine Lavoisier, scientist, Paris, 1743; Albert, Prince Consort, Schloss Rosenau, Coburg, Germany, 1819; John Buchan, 1st Baron Tweedsmuir, writer and Governor-General of Canada, 1875-40; Perib, 1875; Guillaume Apollinaire, poet, Rome, 1880. Deaths: William James, philosopher, Cocoona, Hampshire, 1910; Leo Charey, film actor, New York, 1932; Ralph Vaughan Williams, London, 1958. Julius Caesar landed in Britain, 55 BC.

Portfolio Gold

Times Portfolio Gold rates are as follows:
 1 Times Portfolio is free. Purchase of The Times is not a condition of the scheme.
 2 Times Portfolio consists of a group of public companies whose shares are listed on the Stock Exchange and quoted in The Times Stock Exchange section. The companies comprising the list will change every three months. The list (which is numbered 1-44) is divided into four randomised, distributed groups of 11 shares. Every Portfolio card contains two numbers from each group and each card contains a unique set of numbers.
 3 Times portfolio dividend will be 12p.
 4 The daily dividend will be announced each day and details of the daily or weekly dividend will also be published in the section of the Times.
 5 If the overall price movement of more than one combination of shares exceeds the dividend, the price will be equally divided between the shares. The dividend will be increased if the price of the 44 shares which are included in the list exceeds the dividend.
 6 Employees of News International and its subsidiaries and of Enprint Group Limited (publishers of The Times) are eligible for the scheme. The Editors' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

Lighting-up time

London: 6.21 pm to 5.35 am
 Bristol: 6.41 pm to 5.44 am
 Edinburgh: 6.53 pm to 5.57 am
 Manchester: 6.44 pm to 5.59 am
 Newcastle: 6.50 pm to 5.59 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: C, cloud; F, fair; B, rain; S, sun.

City	Temp (C)	Temp (F)	Weather
Belfast	11	52	Cloudy
Birmingham	13	55	Cloudy
Bristol	13	55	Cloudy
Cardiff	13	55	Cloudy
Edinburgh	15	59	Cloudy
Glasgow	15	59	Cloudy

Weather forecast

A deep depression will move slowly eastwards across the British Isles. It will be generally cloudy with rain or showers at times but Scotland will be mainly dry with some sunny intervals.

6 am to midnight

London, SE, central S England, East Anglia, E, W Midlands: Mainly cloudy with occasional showers or outbreaks of rain; wind variable becoming W light or moderate; max temp 16 to 18C (61 to 64F).

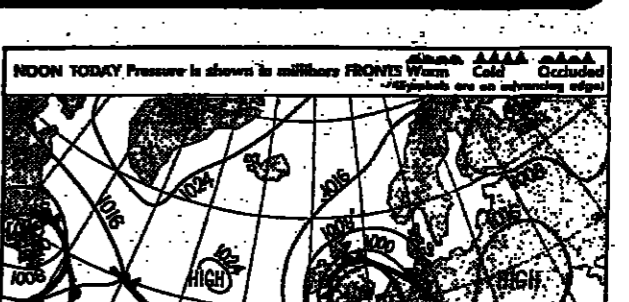
E, NW, central N, NE England, N Wales, Lakes District, Isle of Man, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow: Cloudy with occasional rain; wind SE fresh or strong, gusts force at times in exposed areas, decreasing during the evening; max temp 15 to 17C (59 to 63F).

Wales, central Highlands, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland, Northern Ireland: Rain in places at first, followed by sunny intervals and showers; Wind E fresh or strong becoming N moderate; max temp 13 to 15C (55 to 59F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Thursday

Showers and bright or sunny intervals. Winds moderating; temperatures a little below normal.

SEA PASSAGES: North Sea: Wind SW force 6-7 to gale force 8; rain; visibility moderate or poor sea very rough. English Channel: Wind SW force 6-7 to severe gale force 8; rain; visibility moderate or poor; sea very rough. St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind S force 6-7 to severe gale force 8; visibility moderate or poor; sea very rough.



High Tides

Location	Time	Height
Aberdeen	11.45	10.7
Aberystwyth	10.25	10.2
Aldershot	3.51	12.1
Cardiff	11.45	10.7
Devonport	10.25	10.2
Gloucester	10.45	10.5
London	10.55	11.2
London Bridge	11.45	10.7
London Colindale	11.45	10.7
London Victoria	11.45	10.7
London Waterloo	11.45	10.7
London Whitechapel	11.45	10.7
London York	11.45	10.7
London ZSL	11.45	10.7

Around Britain

Region	City	Temp (C)	Temp (F)	Weather
EAST COAST	Scarborough	8.8	48	cloudy
	York	10.4	51	cloudy
	Leeds	10.4	51	cloudy
	Sheffield	10.4	51	cloudy
	Doncaster	10.4	51	cloudy
MIDLANDS	London	15.5	60	cloudy
	Birmingham	13.3	56	cloudy
	Manchester	13.3	56	cloudy
	Nottingham	13.3	56	cloudy
	Sheffield	10.4	51	cloudy

Abroad

Country	City	Temp (C)	Temp (F)	Weather
EUROPE	Amsterdam	12	54	cloudy
	Berlin	13	55	cloudy
	Brussels	13	55	cloudy
	Frankfurt	13	55	cloudy
	Geneva	13	55	cloudy
ASIA	London	15.5	60	cloudy
	Bombay	32	90	sunny
	Calcutta	32	90	sunny
	Rangoon	32	90	sunny
	Singapore	32	90	sunny

Letter from Sydney
Pretoria's tax
rubs raw nerve

Executive Editor
Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET
(Change on week)

FT 30 Share
1271.2 (+0.2)

FT-SE 100
1607.1 (+5.2)

Bargains
20846

USM (Datastream)
125.5 (+1.54)

THE POUND
(Change on week)

US Dollar
1.4900 (-0.0045)

W German mark
3.0426 (-0.0376)

Trade-weighted
73.1 (+1.4)

S Africa hit by £2.46bn outflow

From Michael Hornsby
Johannesburg

The political and civil strife in South Africa stimulated a net outflow of Rands 9.547 billion (£2.46 billion at the commercial rate) during the 12 months since July 1985, according to the South African Reserve Bank's annual report yesterday.

This period roughly coincides with the 12 months since the imposition of a partial state of emergency on July 21 1985, lifted on March 7 but replaced on June 12 by a national state of emergency.

The declaration of the first state of emergency, "in a general climate of political unrest, contributed to a worsening of overseas perception of South Africa's socio-economic stability and of the prospects for the economy", the report states.

"The resultant renewed net outflow of foreign capital and intensified downward pressure on the exchange rate began to assume critical proportions when, towards the end of July, certain foreign banking institutions made known their intention of not renewing credit facilities."

The stricter foreign exchange controls, and the unilateral "standstill" on the repayment of more than half South Africa's foreign debt, imposed by Pretoria last September, "did not succeed in stemming the outflow of capital from South Africa."

The report says the sharp increase in short-term capital outflows in the second half of 1985 was partly due to the repayment of large amounts of loans falling outside the standstill net, "that might well have been rolled over if South Africa's credit rating had not been reduced by the standstill."

Outflows of short-term and long-term capital have remained high in the first half of 1986, because of perceived threats of intensified economic sanctions against South Africa, news of continued social unrest and because "foreign loans falling due had to be repaid without new loans being made available."

The capital outflow is seen here as the most serious threat to the prospects for long-term economic growth, without which it will be impossible for the government to defuse unrest by creating more jobs for blacks and improving housing, schools and other facilities.

Earlier this month, the government approved a proposal for widening the use of the so-called financial rand in the hope of reviving foreign investment in South Africa, which has completely dried up.

The financial rand is a special restricted exchange rate, introduced with other foreign exchange controls last September to discourage the outflow of capital.

The financial rand is worth only around US19c-20c, almost half the value of the commercial rand, which is valued at about US38c. Capital can only leave the country at the financial rand rate, which imposes a heavy loss on the investor.

In the past foreigners could purchase financial rands only to invest in publicly listed South African stocks or certain other approved assets. Under the new rules, financial rands can now also be bought for investment in property and private companies.

Meanwhile, Mr Kent Durr, the Deputy Minister of Finance, described as "undiluted rubbish" a report in a British Sunday newspaper that Pretoria was "poised to nationalize" British companies here if the European Economic Commission decides to impose economic sanctions this year.

"South Africa has always been a good and safe investment for British investors and things will remain that way," he told *Business Day*, a Johannesburg newspaper.

Interest rate hope fuels record rise for Tokyo shares

By David Watts in Tokyo and David Smith

Hopes of lower interest rates brought strong gains in share prices in Japan and West Germany yesterday. Prices on the Tokyo Stock Exchange posted their biggest ever one-day gain.

The market optimism came in spite of official caution about the prospects for monetary relaxation in the two countries, following last week's half-point reduction in the US discount rate.

The Nikkei-Dow Jones index in Tokyo surged by 432.78 points to 18,565.61, easily beating the previous largest one-day rise, of 320.56 points, recorded on September 29, 1981.

Last week, the market had fallen back on fears of the consequences for the economy of the strong yen, dropping by

800 points in the space of three days.

In West Germany, the Commerzbank index in Frankfurt rose by 112.2 points to 2,102.2.

The council of West Germany's central bank, the Bundesbank, meets on Thursday, amid intense pressure on it to make at least a token reduction in interest rates.

According to Mr David Morrison, international economist at Goldman Sachs in London, the Bundesbank may opt to cut its Lombard rate from 5.5 to 5 per cent at Thursday's meeting. This has little impact on current money market rates but could signal the intentions of the West German authorities and alleviate the upward pressure of the mark.

However, Mr Morrison expects such pressure to force the German central bank into a significant cut in the discount rate, prior to the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund in Washington at the end of September.

One possibility is that the United States, having thrown down the gauntlet by reducing the discount rate last week, would then seize the opportunity to make a further reduction.

Yesterday, currency markets were quiet. Last night in New York, the dollar was quoted at 153.8 yen and DM2.0425. The pound was weak at \$1.4810, implying that there will be problems about Britain's participation in any round of interest rate cuts.

World economy 'is close to recession'

The world economy is close to recession, according to the Charterhouse business forecast, published today. Persistently high interest rates have cut investment in new capacity and diverted funds into the hands of non-risktakers, the report says.

The quarterly forecast, prepared by Mr James Morrell, says the world oil crisis has led to large cuts in oil producers' investment and incomes but there has been no offsetting rise in spending by oil consumers.

As a result, the world economy has entered a period of stagnation which will be exacerbated by the efforts of the United States to cut back its balance of payments and budget deficits.

Other countries, the report says, show no signs of adopting expansionary policies to counter this.

In addition, the report says, the collapse of oil and other commodity prices has deepened international debt problems.

"The magnitude of the oil and debt problems must be

taken as warnings that the world is perilously close to recession," the report concludes.

The forecast for Britain, like that of the National Institute for Economic and Social Research last week, is for slow growth - 2 per cent this year and 2.6 per cent in 1987 - and a small rise in inflation, to 4.5 per cent next year.

The Government is expected to push down interest rates, even at the risk of sending the pound lower. One reason for this, the report says, is the need to sustain equity markets ahead of the British Gas flotation.

Unemployment is expected to remain at the 3.2 million to 3.3 million level, and the balance of payments is expected to move into deficit next year.

However, Charterhouse's forecast for the current account, a £1 billion deficit in 1987 after a £2 billion surplus this year, is considerably less gloomy than that of the National Institute, which last week predicted 1987 deficit of nearly £6 billion.

German growth in doubt

The outlook for West Germany has deteriorated, according to a report published yesterday by the IFO Economic Research Institute in Munich.

The report, which comes amid a heated debate in Germany over whether the economy requires the boost of lower interest rates, will put pressure on the West German central bank at its council meeting on Thursday.

Other figures released yesterday suggested that inflationary pressures in West Germany remain very weak indeed.

The cost of living in Germany's largest federal state, North Rhine-Westphalia, was down by 0.2 per cent in mid-August over a month earlier.

Compared with a year earlier, the cost of living was down by 0.7 per cent. Germany has been posting cost of living falls, on a 12-month basis, since late spring.

The IFO report on German industry concluded that slow growth in output was set to continue. Companies which took part in the institute's regular survey of industrial trends last month were sceptical about the prospects for stronger growth in the second half of the year.

The German government has consistently claimed that such growth will emerge without any action by the authorities, including on interest rates.

The rise in the value of the mark has hit export prospects, although there was no further deterioration in companies' assessments of overseas sales prospects last month.

Wholesale trade prospects were worse than in June, however.

Last week, Herr Martin Bangemann, the Economics Minister, claimed that the growth rate for the economy would pick up in the second half of the year, to give 3 per cent rise in gross national product for 1986 as a whole.

In the first half of the year, growth is believed to have been running at 2 to 2.5 per cent, implying a stronger performance in the second half of the year.

It has become clear that if such stronger growth is to emerge it has to be domestically generated. Despite a record trade surplus of DM50 billion (£16.5 billion) in the first half of the year, export volumes, hit by the strong mark, are only rising slowly.

Comment, page 17

Tin brokers to step up fight for crisis millions

By Our City Staff

London tin brokers are stepping up their fight to recoup from the British Government some of the £400 million they lost on the collapse of the tin market last year.

Tinco Realisations, the group of 11 London broker creditors of the International Tin Council has sent a detailed briefing of its case to the 22-member states of the ITC, including the British Government.

Tinco says the member states are financially responsible for the large debts left in the wake of the tin crisis. Creditor banks are still owed £340 million.

The British Government denies any legal liability for the losses. A spokesman for the Department of Trade and Industry said yesterday: "The circumstances surrounding the tin crisis, which were fully probed by the Trade and Industry Select Committee, do not favour any sort of agreement or settlement at the moment. We are waiting for the case concerning a writ issued by a tin broker, to come to court."

JH Rayner, one of the London Metal Exchange brokers, is taking all 22 members of the ITC to court to recover its losses after the collapse of the tin market.

Tinco's lengthy document, which has been sent to Mr Paul Channon, the Trade and Industry Secretary, alleges that member states were fully aware of the impending funding of the Sixth International Tin Agreement and its impending collapse. It uses minutes from ITC meetings to back up its case.

Mr Michael Arnold, a senior partner of Arthur Young, the firm of accountants, and the leader of Tinco Realisations, commented: "Tinco has received the strongest legal advice confirming the culpability and liability of the member states. We have sent this document to all the relevant ministers, including the British Government's representatives, and we have requested them to respond.

"We look forward to these reactions, which we hope will be constructive in settling a dispute which we believe has been very damaging, not only to us but to the London commodity markets generally and to the City of London's standing in the international financial community."

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John Elliott: transfer of voting rights puts him in a powerful position

Elders 'close to winning go-ahead for Allied bid'

By Alison Eadie

The Monopolies and Mergers Commission is believed to have given Elders IXL the go-ahead to bid for Allied-Lyons, the British food and drink group. The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Mr Paul Channon, is expected to give the MMC report his blessing any time now.

The Australian brewer would then be free to relaunch its offer, almost a year after it stunned the City with its first £1.7 billion debt-financed bid - then the biggest to hit the British takeover scene.

The intervening year, however, has been one of enormous change for Elders and Allied-Lyons. Allied has produced impressive profit figures, which have helped boost its stock market value to £2.3 billion. Elders would not be in with a chance unless it offered a substantial premium to that.

Allied has also made a £25.6 billion (£1.25 billion) bid for Canadian Hiram Walker Resources' drinks division. The acquisition would

greatly increase Allied's size and make much more difficult for Elders to digest. However, it has been fraught with difficulty and is not yet in the bag.

Although Allied secured the agreement of Hiram's board to the acquisition, Hiram was then taken over by Olympia and York, a Canadian real estate and resources group. O&Y opposes the deal.

Its first blocking attempt failed in July, when the Ontario Supreme Court dismissed with costs its appeal against a lower court's decision approving Hiram's right to sell to Allied. O&Y returns to court a week tomorrow to ask leave to appeal against the July decision.

Allied goes to court on September 29 to try to enforce its original contract.

Elders sees Allied's move as being designed to spoil its chances of rebidding. A few months ago, the Hiram purchase may have done just that, but Elders too has undergone a transformation.

Last April Elders and Broken Hill Proprietary, Australia's largest company, exchanged what appeared to be defensive cross holdings in each other in what was seen as an attempt to stymie the long-running attempt by Bell Resources, led by Mr Robert Holmes a Court, to take over BHP.

Mr Holmes a Court, however, turned the tables this month by transferring his voting power in BHP to Mr John Elliott, chief executive of Elders, for BHP's annual meeting on September 23.

Mr Elliott, through the addition of Bell's 28 per cent stake in his own near 20 per cent, is in a powerful position. The possibility has been raised of Elders and Bell doing deals together. The most popular theory is that Elders will shortly be in the driving seat at BHP and will buy out Bell's stake.

Mr Elliott would then be extremely well placed and have the financial muscle required to bid for Allied-Lyons

Last-ditch Greycoat battle to win Phit

By Judith Huntley

Greycoat Group, which is making a hostile £108 million offer for Property Holding and Investment Trust, launched its bid only five months after its £37.1 million rights issue because of a plan to develop a £100 million office and retail scheme with the British Rail Property Board at London's Charing Cross station.

Greycoat would like to retain a lion's share of the profits from the Charing Cross scheme. If it is successful in acquiring Phit, it would have an asset base on which to finance such a development without seeking institutional funding, which would reduce its profit share.

Greycoat is making its final attempt to persuade Phit shareholders to accept its 135.3p per share offer or the cash alternative of 137.5p per share before Thursday's closing date. But Phit knows it can count on 34 per cent of its shares held by two large institutions.

Greycoat's shares have fallen below the level of its cash offer; therefore that is the more attractive option for Phit shareholders.

Greycoat has said it will not improve its offer as it believes its portfolio to be fully valued. The valuation methods of both companies have been the battleground in the increasingly acrimonious fight after the breakdown of amicable talks over the question of price.

Yorkshire prospectus

Yorkshire Television's prospectus, out today, values the company at £41.2 million and includes a profit forecast of at least £8.25 million for the 12 months to September 30.

On a 41 per cent cash charge, the shares are on a p/e ratio of 8.4 times. The indicated dividend yield is 7 per cent. The prospectus, published on page 19, also contains a figure of £12.4 million for cash balances at the end of July.

Analysts believe the shares are attractively priced compared with those of similar companies. However, they say a fair amount of institutional liquidity has been taken up by the floatations this year of Thames Television and TV-am.

Baring Brothers is offering 8,227,923 shares, or 25 per cent of the equity, for sale at 125p each.

Yorkshire is now the only ITV company not to be quoted or part of a quoted group.

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New bid for BHP 'ready'

Sydney (Reuters) - Mr Robert Holmes a Court's Bell Resources has prepared a new formal takeover for the Broken Hill Proprietary Co, but it is delaying having it registered, analysts said in Sydney.

They believed that Mr Holmes a Court had filed a bid with the National Companies and Securities Commission (NCSC), but that the commission had refused to register it in the form submitted.

Mr Ray Schoer, the NCSC executive director, confirmed that the NCSC and its agent, the Victorian Corporate Affairs Commission, had re-

sponded to documents submitted by Mr Holmes a Court. But the matter is now back with Mr Holmes a Court after examination by the NCSC and CAC. Mr Schoer said.

"You should not assume there is a registered part A (formal takeover) statement in any sense whatsoever," he added.

The range of possibilities mentioned by dealers and analysts includes a buyout of Bell by Elders IXL, a takeover of Elders by BHP or a new bid by Bell that might be aimed at triggering a buyout.

The analysts said that they understood that Bell, BHP and Elders had been involved in talks.

Mr Tony Moody, an analyst with A C Goode and Company, said Mr Holmes a Court now knew what it would take to have another bid registered successfully.

That gave him the option of launching an immediate fifth bid for BHP shares in a form he knew would be acceptable, or continuing a waiting game with BHP.

Mr Holmes a Court was unavailable for comment.

EEC to tax Japanese photocopiers

The European Commission is to impose 15.8 per cent duty on the import of Japanese photocopiers into the EEC in one of the largest anti-dumping actions taken by the Community so far.

The action follows complaints from the Committee of European Copier Manufacturers last year and an EEC investigation which revealed that Japanese photocopiers were being sold in Europe at up to 60 per cent less than their normal price in Japan.

The import duty will come into effect from tomorrow but it is expected to have little impact initially as the Japanese manufacturers are expected to absorb it

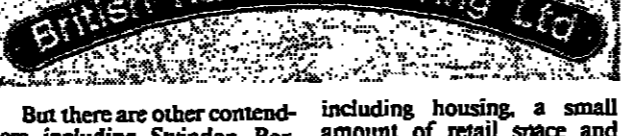
Trafalgar tipped to win rail site

By Judith Huntley,
Commercial Property
Correspondent

The future of British Rail Engineering's 150-acre site in the heart of Swindon will be revealed next month when the successful developer for the redundant works is announced.

Trafalgar House Developments, part of the property, shipping and construction company headed by Sir Nigel Brookes is keenly interested and is being tipped by some as most likely to succeed.

The company says it has gone to great pains to comply with Brel's requirements for the site. Mr Geoffrey Carter, the chairman of the commercial and residential property divisions of Trafalgar House, said: "We are very enthusiastic about the site and we hope we are in the pole position to win it."



But there are other contenders including Swindon Borough Council in partnership with the private sector and a consortium called the Great Western Works which would involve joint development with the Heron Property Corporation, part of Mr Gerald Ronson's empire.

It will not be an easy site to develop. The vast sheds, formerly housing 2,300 engineering workers, will have to be demolished before development can begin. There are listed buildings on the site which will have to be retained and there are infrastructure problems.

There will be a mix of development on the site

including housing, a small amount of retail space and continuing engineering uses. Brel also wants to see a working railway museum.

Swindon's economy can be seen as a microcosm of the British economy. It has had to find a wider and more buoyant economic base to offset its dependence on the declining railway industry which gave it birth.

The Swindon Enterprise Board, set up by the local authority, has been very successful in attracting growth industries to the town such as high technology and electronics companies.

But the depression in America's so-called Silicon

Valley on the West Coast is taking its toll in Swindon. Many companies operating in the town are European headquarters of US parents and are dependent on the state of the micro chip and computer industry in California.

Intel, an American electronics company, had an option to expand on a 30-acre site in Swindon but backed out due to the state of affairs back home. National Semiconductor, which has its European headquarters in Swindon, is pulling in its horns.

But while the Americans may be reducing their growth rate, the Japanese could step in to replace them. Honda, the Japanese car manufacturer, is coming to Swindon and although details of its plans have not been made public, Japanese companies which supply Honda are already showing interest in coming to the town.

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WALL STREET

Shares sharply lower

New York (Reuters) — Share prices opened sharply lower yesterday led by futures-related selling and investor dis- ap- pointment that prime rates did not fall after last week's discount rate cut, analysts said.

The market's mildly over- b-ought position contributed to the decline, they added.

Table with columns for date (Aug 22, Aug 21, Aug 20, Aug 19) and various stock indices like DJIA, NYSE, NASDAQ, etc.

Table listing individual stocks and their prices for Aug 22 and Aug 21, including companies like Amgen, Amstar, Allied Signal, etc.

COMMODITIES REVIEW

Panic could push coffee to £3,000

It is not often that the commodity markets are moved by announcements after anticipating them a week in advance. But that is what happened in the coffee market last week when Senor Paulo Graciano, president of the Brazilian Coffee Institute, first hinted, then spelled out, that the Brazilian coffee crop was not going to be all it might.

The trend was reinforced as the roasters went off on their summer holidays while the Brazilian cherries bloomed with an almost total absence of frost, the chilling killer responsible for sending prices above £4,000 and emptying supermarket shelves in 1977.

Table titled 'BASE LENDING RATES' listing various banks and their interest rates, such as ABN (10.00%), Adam & Company (10.00%), etc.

Richard Lander

US NOTEBOOK

Fed's chief puts Bonn and Tokyo on spot

From Maxwell Newton New York

Mr Paul Volcker, the Federal Reserve chairman, threw down the gauntlet to the West Germans and Japanese with his decision to cut the discount rate to 5 1/2 per cent last Wednesday — a decision that looked panicky at the time and which is expected to be followed by another cut within a few weeks.

The Germans and Japanese now face the unpleasant prospect of further substantial appreciation of their currencies against the dollar.

Mr Volcker has, in effect, made it plain that he is prepared for a substantial further devaluation of the dollar in order to achieve two important policy objectives:

- (1) A modification of the huge US trade deficit, which is the biggest deterrent to the growth of the domestic US economy. (2) Forcing the Germans and Japanese to modify their domestic fiscal and monetary policies towards domestic expansion (and higher imports) in order to protect their seriously threatened exports.

In order to achieve these objectives, Mr Volcker has had to sacrifice the policy of holding up the federal funds rate at an artificially high level... He is prepared to accept a significantly easier domestic monetary policy, as symbolized by the decision to allow the funds rate to drop.

COMMODITIES REVIEW (continued)

which was known to all and sundry in the coffee world. Indeed, the market soared to £3,000 a tonne in January before collapsing alarmingly by almost 50 per cent over the next six months as a number of factors combined to reduce the importance of the Brazilian drought. European roasters showed little demand, preferring instead to obtain their supplies from the massive stocks lying in Amsterdam and Le Havre, while what needs they did have could be filled adequately from Colombia.

The trend was reinforced as the roasters went off on their summer holidays while the Brazilian cherries bloomed with an almost total absence of frost, the chilling killer responsible for sending prices above £4,000 and emptying supermarket shelves in 1977.

What compounded last week's news from Sao Paulo was a realization that the shortfalls of good quality mild coffee from Brazil might not be so easily covered as was first thought. Stocks in Europe, while still large, have diminished in quality as roasters have taken the richest pickings. Colombian and Central American exporters are pretty well sold out and there is little to be had among the comparable African varieties.

In short, it now appears there is not an awful lot of coffee in Brazil or anywhere else. Add to that the commodity markets' version of ingedient X — speculators' price chart followers — and the result is rapidly-rising prices.

What happens next depends largely on how the roasters behave. At present, their needs are still fairly well covered in what is by far the slowest time of the year. Come the final quarter, however, demand will start to pick up again. Any sign of panic buying by one roaster could quickly spread through the industry and prices could approach £3,000 again.

Richard Lander

Year of the property takeover

This may be the year of the bear market for stocks, but for the quoted property companies it is the year of the takeover and merger.

It all began in 1985 when Liberty Life, the South African insurance company, gained 91 per cent of Capital & Counties, one of the foremost British retail developers and a company in which it already had a stake.

That contested £173 million bid was triggered by the technicalities of Britain's takeover code, which required the South African company to make a bid once its shareholding passed the 29.9 per cent mark.

Liberty Life may well be looking to dilute its controlling stake, making this an exception to the present round of takeovers and mergers in the sector.

The real flurry of activity began early in 1986 when the Dutch investment group, Robeco — through Rodamco, its property arm — made a dawn raid on Haslemere Estates, the well-liked and well-established property concern, giving it 24 per cent of the company.

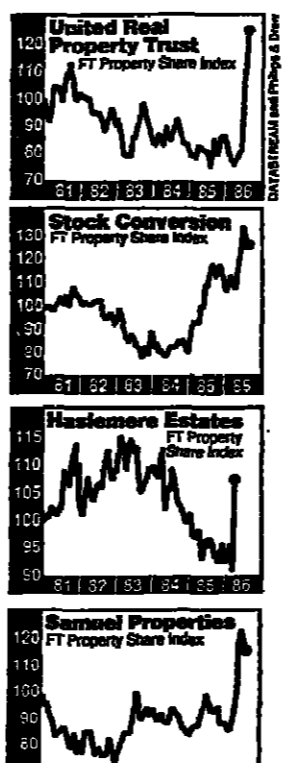
So well known was Haslemere for its refurbishment of old buildings into offices that "doing a Haslemere" passed into the property world's vocabulary. Unfortunately for Haslemere, its reputation was not enough to save it from the Dutch bidder. Rodamco increased its offer from 600p to a share to 640p, valuing Haslemere at £252 million after the company defensively revalued its assets to show a net asset value of "at least" 728p per share.

Institutional shareholders lost no time in selling to Rodamco, doing so while the going was good. Haslemere's share price

and net asset value had underperformed other significant property companies before the bid. And earnings per share for the year to March 31 1985 were 5 per cent lower than those of 1981.

More was to come. Stock Conversion, the established property company, became vulnerable to a takeover once its co-founder, Mr Robert Clark, died. His family shareholding went to the new and aggressive property company Stockley, which was a thorn in Stock Conversion's side for some time.

Stockley and Stock Conversion could not agree on a solution to the problem largely because of price. In the event, Stock Conversion became the subject of a hostile £377 million bid from Sir Jeffrey Sterling.



Sir Jeffrey Sterling: Stockley succumbed to his coaxing

Stock Conversion's management, reluctant to enter a protracted and bitter battle, advised shareholders to take the P & O offer after Stockley swiftly succumbed to Sir Jeffrey Sterling's blandishments.

P & O made a small improvement to its cash offer for Stock Conversion to 720p per share, enough to tempt shareholders away. Stock Conversion's net asset value was later shown to be 770p a share.

P & O's underwriters, however, were left with many shares as the company's share price fell below its cash offer. The attractions for P & O were obvious. It could use highly-rated paper to launch its bid for a company with a

ANALYSIS

Year of the property takeover (continued)



Sir Jeffrey Sterling: Stockley succumbed to his coaxing

juicy collection of assets. Institutional investors were increasingly looking at their property investments in the same light as any other equities. The argument that property was a long-term investment was holding less weight.

With that sentiment creeping into the market and property investment companies trading at a discount to net asset value, the way was clear for them to become the prey of new trading companies with highly-rated paper.

The agreed £36 million merger between David, in the shape of Claydon Properties, which came to the Unlisted Securities Market in 1985 with net assets of £2.9 million, and Goldia, in the guise of Samuel Properties,

with net assets of £94.1 million, reinforced the trend. Institutional investors are backing the trading companies, particularly those in specialist areas of the market, above the older companies which are saddled with an ageing portfolio.

Moundleigh is the latest of the property companies trading at a premium to assets to agree a takeover, in this case with the former chairman of United Real Property Trust, Mr Maurice Wohl. He owns 51 per cent of the company, and eventually agreed to Moundleigh's £117 million offer, valuing United's shares at 975p.

United's last quoted net asset value was 744p, but Moundleigh estimates that it is now 1,250p per share, making its offer stand at a 28 per cent discount.

The only real defence that investment companies have, given that the price is right, is to boost net asset value by revaluing the portfolio.

The acrimonious fight which has developed between Greycoat Group and Property Holding & Investment Trust, for which it is making a £108 million bid, hinges on the value of the respective portfolios. Both sides accuse the other of over-generous valuations.

But, in reality, it is a classic battle between an investment company with assets and a glamour stock with large amounts of highly-rated paper.

Greycoat has a tough battle on its hands over the price it is offering the Phit shareholders, although some may be tempted by the cash offer of 137p per share.

Judith Huntley

Commercial Property Correspondent

Tombs defends AE bid

By Amanda Gee Smyth

Sir Francis Tombs, chairman of Turner & Newall, has hit back at claims that his company's £261 million bid for AE, the engineering group, lacks industrial logic.

The offer, due to close on Friday, is likely to be extended until September 12. T&N on Friday bought another 1 million AE shares to bring its stake to 19.5 per cent.

AE's second defence document, in what has become a fiercely-contested bid battle, attacked the industrial logic of the bid and expressed doubts about T&N's South African interests.

Sir Francis Tombs, in an interview with The Times, said that the bid was a complementary one and not a competitive one. The AE range of piston and crankshaft products were not in direct competition with any T&N products, and a merger would provide an extended and streamlined range.

Sir Francis claimed that the companies did not overlap geographically. Although they had plants in the same countries they did not manufacture the same products.

There was, he said, no intention of cutting AE's research and development, but high expenditure was not in itself a virtue.

In reply to AE's claim that T&N was still financially over-dependent on Southern Africa, he said that the group had reduced its interest in its South African holding company from 78 per cent to 51.

AE's fears that T&N is not being clear on liabilities from claims relating to asbestos-related diseases were unjustified, Sir Francis said.

T&N has reached an agreement with American producers and insurers to handle all forward claims, cutting the costs of litigation.

T&N has also recently received a number of substantial payments from insurers who had refused to pay damages until sued by the company.

T&N insists that the two companies will form a strong international force in the motor component industry.



Paul Volcker: prepared for a further reduction

He has plenty of scope for an easier monetary policy. The 0.6 per cent revised real GNP growth rate of the second quarter shocked the "consensus" thinkers and gave the Administration a nasty jolt.

Other economic information released during the week underlined the impression of weakness and deflation. July housing starts fell 1.5 per cent, real wages per hour in July fell 0.5 per cent after a revised 0.5 per cent decline in real earnings in June; the consumer price index for July showed no change (making the total drop in consumer prices 0.1 per cent so far this year); personal consumption and spending growth in July was only about half of the percentage growth rate of the last year.

It is very difficult for Mr Volcker or anyone else to argue that inflation is a threat. Hence, it is easier for him to justify a domestic monetary policy which I imagine will soon have the Germans and Japanese crying bloody murder.

Domestic and global trends justify investor optimism

Gilt-edged

Indications are that the budget deficit in this financial year is likely to remain under reasonable restraint. This prospect is dependent on continued oil price firmness, tightly controlled expenditure and further buoyancy in non-oil revenues.

As the rate of inflation has fallen in Britain, real gilt yields have risen sharply to about 7 per cent, the highest level among leading nations. The yield margin over US bonds remains stubbornly high, at 2.5 per cent. Indeed, in terms of absolute value, the gilt-edged market hardly reflects the drop in the British rate of inflation of recent years or a reasonably encouraging inflation outlook.

In such circumstances, a question which both international and British investors may well ask is: "How best to evaluate the gilt market?" In trying to answer this question, it is helpful to focus first on the domestic scene. A key feature here is that nominal GDP growth this year is likely to be at least 2 per cent below the level anticipated by the Treasury at the time of the Budget. Expressed differently, both inflation in Britain and "real" economic growth are likely to continue to under-shoot government objectives, giving room for policy stimulus.

Scope for increased British largesse is also suggested by last week's PSBR figures. The

prospects in a financial environment in which domestic worries are likely to be overshadowed by international events. In particular, attention needs to be paid to three key global trends, namely:

Oil prices: The prospects for the recent Opec agreement holding are encouraging and this should help sentiment in the gilt market. Oil prices in the next year are likely to remain at \$10-\$16 a barrel, initially trading in the upper end of this range. A firmer oil price will help the British balance of payments on current account and will reduce the Government's funding requirement.

World Interest Rates: In the United States, subdued growth (only 0.6 per cent a year in the second quarter), low inflation and domestic and third world financial problems will continue to encourage a relatively lax monetary policy. A further cut in the US discount rate to 5 per cent cannot be ruled out in the short term. Nominal short-term interest rates in other leading countries could be as much as 1 to 2 per cent lower by early next year, even though real interest rates will remain high. Britain is likely to play an important part in the world move to lower interest rates.

Currency Trends: The recent firming in oil prices has reduced downward pressure

on sterling. Britain's balance of payments may be heading towards a current account deficit next year, but this is likely to result more in weakness against the mark bloc currencies and the yen than against the dollar. This prospective British currency mix, encompassing a significant depreciation against our biggest competitors without fuelling an inflationary run on the pound, is not a bearish factor for gilts. Sentiment towards sterling is still widely influenced by the pound's performance against the dollar — which is expected to be good — rather than by its trend against the Euro-currencies and the yen.

What, then, is the overall outlook for gilts? Recent economic data remain supportive for bond markets generally. In Britain, provided there is a realistic response to the lower inflation climate over the next round of wage settlements (which I expect), the case for policy relaxation and lower interest rates will be strong.

With domestic funding and liquidity pressures less demanding than earlier this year, the gilt market is likely to establish a yield base nearer 8.5 per cent by early next year compared with 9.75 per cent today. For sterling and dollar-based investors this movement will represent a substantial total return.

Jeffrey Mizrahi

The author is a chief economist and global strategist at the stockbroker Savory Millin.

GOVERNMENT OF VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

Establishment of International Drug and Chemical Safety Evaluation Centre

Call for Expressions of Interest.

Expressions of interest are invited from commercial parties with the capacity to participate in the establishment and on-going operation of a world class Drug and Chemical Safety Evaluation Centre in Melbourne.

The Victorian Government is committed to promoting and accelerating the commercial development of the State's strong scientific and technological research base and, in particular, to build on our considerable strength in biotechnological research. The Government has launched a major technology programme to foster this development.

As part of this technology programme, the Government has taken the decision to establish a world class facility capable of providing a range of safety evaluation and toxicology testing services throughout Australia, South East Asia and the Pacific Basin. The Government is prepared to contribute equity capital up to AUD 6 million to assist in the establishment of the Centre if a viable proposal can be demonstrated.

The existence of the Centre will complement major initiatives in the areas of medical, plant, animal and food technology.

KEY REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION: ● The capacity to provide or access equity capital; ● The capacity to provide or access the range of scientific and commercial skills necessary to establish and operate an international standard facility.

Preference will be given to parties able to demonstrate the capacity to undertake significant research and development activity in the areas of IN-VITRO TECHNOLOGY and IMMUNOTOXICOLOGY.

FURTHER INFORMATION: A specification for Expression of Interest may be obtained from: Mr K.A. Finnin, Agent General for Victoria, Victoria House, Melbourne Place, Strand, London WC2B 4LG. UNITED KINGDOM. Tel: 836 2656. Telex: 21813 YARRA G. Fax: (44-1)240 6025.

Expressions of interest must reach the Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources, 228 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne, 3002, Australia, no later than 30th September 1986. The Government will then make available to selected parties existing material on viability of the Centre to assist those parties in the preparation of a detailed plan to establish and operate the centre.

Autolease advertisement with logo and contact information for Birmingham (021 707 0490) and London (01 253 6876).

USM REVIEW

Partner with deep pockets comes to Air Call's aid

One of the 11 founder stocks on the USM, Air Call, announced a restructuring...



Debbi Fields: confident of meeting \$18.5 million forecast

In particular, BT's policy in the rising market has caused difficulties for Air Call...

rather than the cash and subsequently distinguished itself as one of the greatest flops...

321 stores selling freshly baked biscuits. Expansion has been very rapid as the group started trading only in 1977...

The figures announced this week showed the group made \$6.4 million for the six months to June...

Isabel Unsworth

The author is a member of the small companies unit at Phillips & Drew, the stockbroker.

Prospects for Norway oil 'never worse'

From Tony Samstag, Oslo

The Norwegian Government's intention to modify tax proposals, announced last week, and feared by oil companies...

Concessionary rates on new developments would mean a tax of about 60 per cent against 85 per cent for those already in production...

The latest figures released by the Norwegian off-shore oil industry make gloomy reading...

Managers and trade union officials, who seem to have found little encouragement in the decision by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to co-operate in curbing production...

Mr Magne Reed of the offshore company Divi, predicts a 'ripple effect'... from employees on supply boats to local grocers...

Although the new Labour Government has hinted that it might be receptive to Opec's requests for Norway to cut its production, there have been few indications that any such gesture is imminent...

The Ministry of Oil and Energy is holding to previous predictions of a peak in 1991, from fields now on stream or due for development...

Barely a month has passed since the Norwegian Shipowners' Association warned that half Norway's fleet of offshore rigs will be out of action by the beginning of 1987...

Engineering scientists gave warning that the oil even the signal last May of the end of the Troll/Sleipner contract could trigger a sharp drop in the level of off-shore activity...

A week later, Mrs Gro Harlem Brundtland, the Norwegian Prime Minister, announced that the government was preparing the tax measures to stimulate oil and gas prospecting...

COMMENT Pressures that threaten the virtuous Germans

Industrial nations that are economically unsuccessful or out of balance tend to outnumber those that get it right...

The rest of us are normal and doing our best. Germany and Japan must change. Most immediately, it is argued, the world economy is slowing down...

For years now, the ire of North America and Europe has focused on Japan. This has had the great advantage that the citizens of Europe and the United States have little contact with their opposite numbers in Japan...

Thus, their success in selling here and our failure to sell there must be due to unfair practices or cultural peculiarity. What would be well-planned marketing strategies in our hands become targeted trade offensives in theirs...

The Americans, in particular, now sense that pressure on Japan cannot be raised much further. The yen has boomed, the post-election Japanese government plans to spend more, and reports on Japan's economic future have contained suitable confessions of error...

The focus of pressure for economic policy changes is, therefore, shifting to Germany. Foreign exchange markets sensed it last week, pushing the mark to new highs against sterling and the dollar...

No one can say the Germans are a nation of economic fanatics. They are the solid citizens of the world economy. For a generation, they have dwelt in the virtuous circle of low inflation, strong currency and rising living standards...

German recovery over the past three years has certainly been sluggish, with growth staggering to 3 per cent in 1984, then faltering to a drop in output in the first quarter of this year...

The US market, which took an average 20 per cent annual increase in mark-denominated imports during 1980-85, is no longer buoyant. Moreover, the 40 per cent rise in the mark against the dollar has made German exports less competitive...

German growth prospects remain unimpressive and unemployment high. The main cause, however, is that the underlying growth in productive potential has slowed to about 2.5 per cent. The economy has become sclerotic...

around 10 per cent) and third markets. The mark has also climbed steeply against sterling. Meanwhile, oil producers are slashing imports and West Germany's Eastern European markets have poor prospects...

Germany must look to internally-generated growth. The third most powerful free world economy, a prime beneficiary of cheaper oil, should also do its bit for the world while the United States is counting the cost of its demand-induced leap forward...

There is, in addition, a European perspective. With its strong trade surplus and rich market, it is argued, Germany can help stimulate the whole Western European market in a way that Britain or France cannot individually attempt...

As it is, however, Germany is acting as a brake on the rest of the EEC through its pivotal role in the European Monetary System and the mark/sterling exchange rate. Yet Bonn is stalling on interest rates and is running a low budget deficit destined to fall further next year...

The trouble with this argument lies in the prescription rather than the analysis. The German economy has become strong, and pivotal in Europe, precisely because it has aimed at monetary and fiscal stability to allow the economy to grow at the natural rate of its productive potential...

Under Bundesbank control, interest rates have been used to provide stable money growth, not to stimulate or rein back output in the British tradition. German interest rates are not only presently lower, but have been much more stable over a long period (even in real terms) than in the US or Britain...

Opinion in Germany is divided, with the camp favouring lower interest rates pointing to continued sluggishness for the economy, as in the latest report from the IFO Institute in Munich, published yesterday. But the authorities still worry that the money supply, growing at an annual rate of 7 per cent in the three months to July, is expanding too fast...

Meanwhile, Herr Martin Bangemann, the Economics Minister, pointing to the sharp recovery in the second quarter, claims that the economy is on course for 3 per cent growth this year, thanks to investment and the boost to consumption from the twin stimulus to living standards from oil prices and the exchange rate...

German growth prospects remain unimpressive and unemployment high. The main cause, however, is that the underlying growth in productive potential has slowed to about 2.5 per cent. The economy has become sclerotic. The tax and welfare system has become oppressive. Deregulation and privatization, strongly supported by Herr Bangemann, have made little progress. Industrial subsidies are rife...

Here perhaps, Britain and the United States might have something to teach the Germans. We had better leave macroeconomic management in their capable hands.

Graham Searjeant

UNLISTED SECURITIES

Table with multiple columns: Company, Price, Change, Dividend, etc. for various unlisted securities.

COMPANY NEWS

AYRSHIRE METAL PRODUCTS: The company is reporting for the 24 weeks to June 13. Pretax loss on ordinary activities £299,000 (profit £26,000)...

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Table showing Sterling Spot and Forward Rates, Dollar Spot Rates, and Euro Money Deposits.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table with multiple columns: Company, Price, Change, Dividend, etc. for various investment trusts.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Table with multiple columns: Company, Price, Change, Dividend, etc. for various financial trusts.

Aramco confirms possible curb on Saudi oil

The Arabian American Oil Company has told its customers in Saudi Arabia that it confirms its plans to give its clients less oil than they request for September if the total of the requests exceeds its planned export level...

French state chiefs go

Paris (AP-Dow Jones) - 13 corporate heads were retained and 12 were replaced. The corporations involved included nine industrial groups, the five biggest French deposit banks, the parent companies of two leading financial groups - Paribas and Suez - and four insurance companies...

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

Table showing Euro Money Deposits, Treasury Bills, and Gold prices.

Portfolio Gold

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

Table with columns: No., Company, Group, Gain or Loss. Lists various companies like Value, SA Breweries, Chamer Cons, etc.

Table with columns: MON, TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SAT, Weekly Total. Lists weekly dividend amounts for various companies.

Table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, % Change. Lists various stocks and their prices.

Table with columns: SHORTS (Under Five Years), Year, % Change, etc. Lists short-term investments.

Table with columns: FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS, Year, % Change, etc. Lists medium-term investments.

Table with columns: OVER FIFTEEN YEARS, Year, % Change, etc. Lists long-term investments.

Table with columns: UNDATED, Year, % Change, etc. Lists undated investments.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES Capitalization and week's change

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted) ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began August 11. Dealings end August 29. Contango day September 1. Settlement day September 8. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Table with columns: Capitalization, Company, Price, Change, % Change, etc. Lists various companies under the Capitalization section.

Table with columns: Capitalization, Company, Price, Change, % Change, etc. Lists companies under the Breweries section.

Table with columns: Capitalization, Company, Price, Change, % Change, etc. Lists companies under the Buildings and Roads section.

Table with columns: Capitalization, Company, Price, Change, % Change, etc. Lists companies under the Finance and Land section.

Table with columns: Capitalization, Company, Price, Change, % Change, etc. Lists companies under the Foods section.

Table with columns: Capitalization, Company, Price, Change, % Change, etc. Lists companies under the Chemicals, Plastics section.

Table with columns: Capitalization, Company, Price, Change, % Change, etc. Lists companies under the Cinemas and TV section.

Table with columns: Capitalization, Company, Price, Change, % Change, etc. Lists companies under the Drapery and Stores section.

Table with columns: Capitalization, Company, Price, Change, % Change, etc. Lists companies under the Electricals section.

Table with columns: Capitalization, Company, Price, Change, % Change, etc. Lists companies under the E-K section.

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Portfolio Gold

DAILY DIVIDEND £12,000 Claims required for +56 points Claimants should ring 0254-53772

Table with columns: Capitalization, Company, Price, Change, % Change, etc. Lists companies under the Overseas Traders section.

Table with columns: Capitalization, Company, Price, Change, % Change, etc. Lists companies under the Overseas Traders section.

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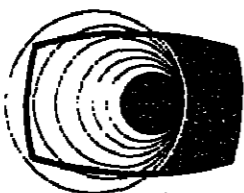
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As dividend is £12,000, £10,000 of this amount is payable to claimants who have entered their names on the claimants list. Payment is made on a weekly basis. Payment is made to claimants who have entered their names on the claimants list. Payment is made to claimants who have entered their names on the claimants list.



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Mar 153.6-23.4	Price in £ p
May 157.7-27.6	Silver in per
Aug 162.5-31.0	Reserve in per
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Vol 2394	Tr

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Please write with full details, or telephone for an application form, to: Stephen Cranin, Personnel Manager, Computervision Productivity Centre Limited, 1040 Unbridge Road, Hayes, Middlesex. Tel: 01-561 2626.

COMPUTERVISION

Saboteurs threaten havoc

The press reports last week that a major bank was the subject of computer fraud focussed attention once more on computer hackers. The bank - Barclays - denied that the loss, reported to have been nearly half a million pounds, was the result of any form of computer hacking.

But the denial did little to allay the fears of those who believe that the computer installations of financial institutions around the world are becoming increasingly vulnerable to attack from computer professionals and amateurs alike.

The spread of computers at home and in the office has aggravated the situation, as has the sloppiness of some computer management. Many computer experts who have studied security claim that the banks and financial institutions could be losing as much as £50m a year from computer-related fraud.

No one will confirm the figures or quantify the losses, but fears of publicity have prevented many cases getting to court - particularly the ones that involve employees - despite the encouragement given to the companies by the police.

The reports of last week came in the wake of a disclosure - only a few days before - that few British companies appreciate what damage computer saboteurs can do. The companies had too little appreciation that much of their business depended on the efficient operation of their computer systems.

Substantial damage to such systems could cripple a business in a matter of days.

Few companies were properly insured for the damage which might result from such illegal acts. David Davies, a director of risk management at insurance brokers Hogg Robinson, who assesses the security risks of computer systems, maintains that many companies might never recover from an attack on their computer systems.

That view was endorsed by computer security expert Dr Ken Wong from consultants BIS Applied Systems. About 15 incidents of computer sabotage have

bombs, are becoming widespread but companies are still reluctant to prosecute. The bombs placed by disgruntled employees are now believed to be inflicting millions of pounds worth of irreparable damage on companies every year.

These computer saboteurs construct and place their bombs just before departure. The less destructive designs about a computer system and require the departed employee to be recalled to repair the damage for a fee. Others are more damaging in nature. Valuable sales invoices, client lists, files, outstanding bills and other vital information for running a business have been destroyed by these commands.

Britain is only experiencing what has been rife in the United States for some time. There, the logic time bombs are more sophisticated and take the form of a virus - illicit commands which in turn generate a train of others in an uncontrollable chain.

These appear easier to implement in computer systems on a public telecommunications network. Usually the hacker or saboteur would enter the network at one node but be able to initiate commands which would do damage at another.

Legislation which forces companies to publicly disclose all the details of computer fraud appears to be the only sensible remedy.

THE WEEK

By Bill Johnstone

surfaced recently and about a third have stopped the companies concerned trading. The saboteur is usually an employee who has programmed the system to develop a fault or activate a command some time after his departure from the company.

The unsupervised computer programmer or systems analyst is therefore in an easy position to alter computer commands at will. "He can be making an illegal change as well as an authorised one," says Dr Wong. These changes, known as logic time

The City offers a golden bait

Computer programmers used to have two options if they wanted to earn a king's ransom rapidly - take a chance on a freelance career or do a tour of duty in the Middle East. The approaching deregulation of the City of London has created a third, more palatable possibility.

With the October deadline getting closer, finance houses in the City are said to be finding their information systems woefully incomplete. Computing expertise is at a premium and the bait used to attract it is becoming increasingly juicy.

Inflated salaries are only the beginning. There are cheap mortgages, free pension schemes, preferential loans, life and health insurance, profit-sharing, share options and bonuses. There are even reports of large cash payments that would put data-processing staff into the same category as head-hunted market-makers.

Recruitment specialists differ on how closely this version of events corresponds to reality. According to some, the Dick Whittington syndrome is at work - the streets of London will always seem to be paved with gold from a certain angle. But even those who would expect to be freewheeling at this time of year say that the City is keeping them busy.

The finance sector has always been a generous employer of computer staff in the benefits it can offer. Subsidised mortgages were common long before the ugly phrase "golden hello" was invented, used in the days when the Big Bang was an alternative to the Book of Genesis.

But the scope of the perks on offer has certainly grown and the qualifying period has shrunk in some cases. "People



are finding that mortgage benefits are available from day one rather than after six months or a year of service," said David Clark of the specialist recruitment consultancy, Sector Personnel.

A well-known international bank helpfully worked out the cash value of banking benefits for employees in a recent

JOB SCENE

By David Guest

advertisement aimed at data processing staff. To somebody on a salary of £13,000 a year, and with a £50,000 mortgage, its package would be worth £4,700 a year.

A spokesman for one of the largest programming body shops said: "There are some pretty fancy prices being paid, but nowhere near what the market makers are getting." Jayne Boynton, of Haltech, said that a qualified analyst-programmer might expect a salary of £20,000 as opposed to £12,000 anywhere else.

Advertising that specifically mentions the Big Bang doesn't bear out this view. Taking into account the problem of job definitions, a study of the recruitment pages of the trade press reveals a large spread.

From analyst-programmer posts at £11,000 plus benefits to senior systems analysts at £30,000 plus benefits plus bonuses.

Bounty hunters are also warned by the recruitment specialists that the least tarnished "golden hellos" are going to people with experience of the finance sector and its procedures. One individual, with just 16 months' experience of a stockbroker's system, has moved to a bank for £23,000 a year.

The golden hello in any meaningful form is rare at the levels of programmers and analysts unless very specific applications skills are involved. At the higher levels managerial staff tend to be head-hunted rather than recruited through advertising.

In software development, the acute shortage of people with the right skills is prompting some finance houses to abandon the golden hello for a much less glamorous expedient - retaining.

On one hand, computer staff with a good technical background can be trained in the ways of the business; on the other, particular types of modern computer system are less demanding of programming talent. Consultants see these factors leading salaries to a plateau.

For the moment, the possibility of big money is still perceived as real by computer staff. "Jane Boynton commented: "It's an ideal opportunity for people to get into the finance sector."

This drift towards the City prompted one local authority in London to fight fire with fire by offering its own golden hello - worth £3,000 to programmers. The offer is thought to be closed now, but the City's, such as it is, remains open until October 27, and probably beyond.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS
MAY: The Sacred Heart of Jesus to be prayed, adored and glorified throughout the world for ever and ever Amen.

BIRTHDAYS
MR P H COLE - 62 on August 26th.

ANNIVERSARIES
REWEAVE: On 26th Anniversary Services DE... (1986)

SERVICES
REARWAYS: London's finest... (1986)

LEGAL SERVICES
COMMERCIAL: By fully qualified solicitors... (1986)

WANTED
225 per cent for sale... (1986)

FOR SALE
FRANCE: SPECIALIST AT TOPS... (1986)

BENEFITS OF RETIRED
The State provides... (1986)

SEVENTEEN Any one who... (1986)

RESISTA CARPETS
SALE NOW ON... (1986)

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
SCHNEIDERMAN Grand Piano... (1986)

THE PLANO WORKSHOP SALE
Genuine reductions on... (1986)

WINGMAN
100% Cash... (1986)

CLEAR OFFER
Free... (1986)

SPEEDING
01-491 1734... (1986)

ANNOUNCEMENTS
THE SALISBURY REVIEW... (1986)

ITS ALL AT TRAILFINDERS
More low-cost flights... (1986)

Cancer
Together we can beat it... (1986)

British Heart Foundation
The heart research charity... (1986)

UP UP & AWAY
Flamingo Travel... (1986)

NEW LOW FARES
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GENERAL

YAKI TIME OFF: Please... (1986)

SELF-CATERING
LAST MINUTE VILLAS... (1986)

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HANTS, DORSET, & L.W. (1986)

GENERAL
SURREY (1986)

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B.M.W. (1986)

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MERCEDDES (1986)

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A/O LEVELS: All Ages... (1986)

TUTORIAL
PRIVATE TUTOR: All subjects... (1986)

EDUCATIONAL COURSES REVIEW
A BETTER CHANCE AT A & O... (1986)

'A' and 'A' Levels?
Save time and money... (1986)

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Required with at least 3 years experience... (1986)

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DRAGONS English Restaurant... (1986)

U.K. HOLIDAYS
MR CHRISTOPHER HARRISON... (1986)

DISCOUNTED FARES
Particular... (1986)

LOWEST FARES
Particular... (1986)

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If you have quality property to let... (1986)

GOING OVERSEAS?
WE HAVE WANTING COMPANY TENANTS... (1986)

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Lettings & Management... (1986)

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Properties from £100-£3,000 p.w. (1986)

FOREST HILL
Modern 2 bed flat in garden setting... (1986)

WANTED
Superior properties for long/short Co lets... (1986)

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A/O LEVELS: All Ages... (1986)

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Law Report August 26 1986

Binding a future council on housing

Regina v Hammersmith and Fulham London Borough Council, Ex parte Beddowes... (1986)

The first question in relation to that contention was whether the council was entitled to impose on its retained land... (1986)

The Labour councillors were opposed to that, principally on the grounds that sale would involve the destruction of an entire community... (1986)

The council's policy in relation to the estate seemed to be designed with that purpose... (1986)

It was the resolution of November 19 of which judicial review was sought... (1986)

The result of the covenants was that, apart from persons having statutory rights of occupancy the dwellings in the blocks were only to be let on long leases... (1986)

It was estimated in November 1983 that the cost would be about £8 million, an amount the council felt was too large for it... (1986)

The council had proposed a period, developed a policy for dealing with the problem... (1986)

Vertical advertisement on the far left edge of the page, partially cut off.

Horizontal advertisement at the bottom of the page for 'PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS'.

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Edited by Peter Davalle and Elizabeth Larard

Force added to Toronto Police

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6.00 CeeFax AM
6.50 Breakfast Time with Frank Bough and Guy Meehan...

ITV/LONDON
9.25 Thames news followed by World Chess Championship...

TV-AM
6.15 Good Morning Britain presented by Anne Diamond and Adrian Brown...

ITV/LONDON
9.25 Thames news followed by World Chess Championship...



Vanessa Redgrave on Channel 4 tonight at 9.00pm

There is both irony and sourcery at work in the new-partner THREE SOVEREIGNS FOR SARAH, episode one of which is on Channel 4...

CHOICE
Pisano is no Sartre or Miller but, like him, he searches beyond the truth behind the myth...

Peter Davalle

BBC 2
6.55 Open University: Geology from Peridotite to Granite...

CHANNEL 4
2.30 Film: Thank You Mr Moto' (1937) starring Peter Lorre...

Radio 4
On long wave, Stereo on VHF 5.55 Shipping, 6.00 News, 6.10 Farming...

Radio 6
7.00 News, 7.05 The Archers, 7.20 Rebuilds, 7.25 Amused...

Radio 3
All programmes on VHF, except for Test Match on medium wave only...

Radio 1
News on the half-hour from 6.30am until 6.30pm then at 10.30 and 12.00 midday...

Table with 3 columns: Channel, Time, Programme Name. Includes details for BBC 1, BBC 2, Channel 4, Radio 4, Radio 6, Radio 3, Radio 1, and World Service.

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m; Radio 2: 693kHz/433m; Radio 3: 1215kHz/247m; Radio 4: 1458kHz/206m; Radio 6: 90.9kHz/1500m...

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

BBC1: WALSLEY 4.45-5.30pm; YORKSHIRE: 9.50-10.30pm; GRANADA: 9.50-10.30pm; ULSTER: 9.50-10.30pm; ANGLIA: 9.50-10.30pm; BORDER: 9.50-10.30pm; CHESHIRE: 9.50-10.30pm; NORTH WEST: 9.50-10.30pm; SOUTH WEST: 9.50-10.30pm...

ENTERTAINMENTS

CONCERTS
MARRIOTT HALL: 8.30, 9.30, 10.30pm; EXHIBITIONS
SOLIHULL GALLERY: 10.30-1.30pm; OPERA & BALLET
COVENTRY: 8.00, 9.00, 10.00pm; ME AND MY GIRL
THE LAMBETH WALK; THE MARRIOTT HALL...

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
MUSIC BY ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER; STEPPING OUT
MUSIC BY ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER; DOUBLE DOUBLE
MUSIC BY ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER...

THE BEST MUSICAL IN LONDON

THE BEST MUSICAL IN LONDON
THE BEST COMEDY AWARDS FOR 1985; THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA; METAMORPHOSIS; CHORUS OF DISAPPROVAL; WINNER OF ALL THE BEST COMEDY AWARDS FOR 1985...

